



Department of Justice

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TAMPA JURY FINDS FT. MYERS MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR GUILTY OF ATTEMPTING TO INDUCE CHILDREN FOR SEX

Tampa, FL - U.S. Attorney A. Brian Albritton announced today that a federal jury has found Charles Jackson Friedlander, age 78, a licensed mental health counselor from Ft. Myers, guilty of using a computer to attempt to induce children for sex. Friedlander faces a mandatory 10 years in federal prison and up to life. Friedlander had been indicted on July 30, 2008. His sentencing hearing is scheduled for June 29, 2009, at 3.p.m.

According to testimony presented at trial, Friedlander used a computer to chat on line with the father of two boys, ages 10 and 11. Friedlander wanted to arrange a meeting in which he was planning to physically and sexually abuse the two children. In fact, Friedlander was chatting with an undercover detective from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. On July 21, 2008, Friedlander drove to the prearranged meeting location in St. Petersburg from his home in the Ft. Myers area and was arrested. In his vehicle, Friedlander had leather straps and a riding crop. During his computer chats, he had discussed using these items to beat the children.

This case was investigated by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda C. Kaiser.