



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2009
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CINCINNATI MAN CHARGED WITH FAILURE TO REGISTER AS SEX OFFENDER

Tip from drive-thru customer leads to arrest

CINCINNATI – A federal grand jury here has indicted Lawrence F. Sipple, age 38, of Cincinnati charging him with failing to register as a sex offender. Sipple faces a possible sentence of ten years in federal prison, a fine of up to \$250,000 and the possibility of supervised release for the rest of his life.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, James M. Wahlrab, United States Marshal for the Southern District of Ohio announced the indictment returned yesterday.

Kentucky State Police officers arrested Sipple on March 6, 2009 in Cold Spring, Kentucky where he works. A day earlier, a woman found a picture of someone resembling Sipple on a Kentucky sex offender registry site. She recognized him because she had encountered him while ordering food at the drive-through restaurant where she stopped with her children. The woman called Kentucky State Police who investigated further.

Sipple pleaded guilty in February, 1998 in Hamilton County Common Pleas Court to corruption of a minor. Part of his sentence included a requirement that he register as a sex offender.

“Because of his conviction for a sex crime, he was required to register as a sex offender in the county where he lived within three days of his release,” Lockhart said. “Sipple did not register as required, but moved to Kentucky then back into Ohio.”

Sipple has been in custody since his arrest.

SORNA is part of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act in 2006. The law requires anyone convicted of sex crimes under federal law, or anyone convicted in state court and traveling in interstate commerce, to register with law enforcement agencies where they live, work or are a student.

Lockhart commended the investigation by the U.S. Marshals Service, Kentucky State Police Officers, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Christy Muncy, who is prosecuting the case.

An indictment is merely an accusation. A defendant should be presumed innocent until and unless convicted in court.

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