



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

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Contact: Davilyn Brackin

Public Affairs Specialist

(409) 839-2538

NEDERLAND MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

(Beaumont, Texas) A 24-year-old Nederland man has been sentenced to 29 months in federal prison for possession of child pornography. **GEORGE KENNETH COTTON** was sentenced today by United States District Judge Thad Heartfield. Cotton must also register as a sex offender, is prohibited from having unsupervised contact with children under the age of 18 years, and is not allowed access to the internet except for purposes of employment.

According to evidence presented in court, deputies with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office responded to a domestic disturbance call on December 6, 2002, to a residence in Nederland that Cotton was sharing with his girlfriend. The computer was seized and turned over to the Beaumont Police Department for analysis. Forensic analysis of the computer revealed hundreds of movie files and image files containing child pornography. Using their Innocent Images database, the Federal Bureau of Investigation was able to identify several of the images as minor children documented in other pornography cases. Cotton pleaded guilty to possession of child pornography on March 9, 2004.

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Matthew D. Orwig praised the diligent work of the law enforcement officers on this case, "Child pornography is vile, despicable, and demeaning. There is nothing more precious than our children and the officers and agents on this case are to be commended for getting this violator behind bars." Orwig also encouraged citizens to be diligent in protecting all children from sexual predators and report suspicious material to law enforcement immediately.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, and the Beaumont Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Bob Rawls prosecuted the case.

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