



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 22, 2004

Contact: Davilyn Brackin

Public Affairs Officer

(409) 839-2538

SOUTHEAST TEXAS MAN ENTERS GUILTY PLEA FOR ENTICING A MINOR BY COMPUTER

(Beaumont, Texas) A 55-year-old Orange, Texas man has pleaded guilty to using a computer to entice a minor to engage in sex. **STEPHEN RENE YOUNG** entered a plea of guilty yesterday before United States Magistrate Judge Wendell Radford.

A federal grand jury returned a one-count indictment on January 21, 2004, charging Young with using a computer to entice a minor to engage in sex. According to documents presented in court, sometime around December 2003, Young began online conversations with a minor child he met in a "chat room." Subsequently, Young began conversing with the minor through "Instant Messaging." The conversations between Young and the minor child were sexual in nature. The mother of the minor child contacted the Orange Police Department after she logged onto the Internet using the minor's screen name and was contacted by Young.

This investigation is part of the Department of Justice's "Innocent Images" national initiative to protect children from computer exploitation. Young faces imprisonment up to 15 years and a \$250,000 fine. The case has not yet been set for sentencing. Young remains in federal custody.

--more--

Matthew D. Orwig praised the diligent work of the Orange Police Department and the FBI, "There is nothing more precious than our children. The officers and agents on this case are to be commended for their quick actions." Orwig also encouraged parents to be extremely cautious of their child's Internet use, "Don't ever let your guard down when your child is using a computer. Sexual predators will use every tactic imaginable to lure your child."

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Orange Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney John B. Stevens, Jr. prosecuted the case.

###