

Department of Justice

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.
Western District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 8, 2012
www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyw

CONTACT: BARBARA BURNS
PHONE: (716) 843-5817
FAX: (716) 551-3051

TONAWANDA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Andrew Ortman, 40, of Tonawanda, N.Y., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Court Judge Richard J. Arcara, to distribution of child pornography. The charge carries a mandatory minimum penalty of five years in prison, a maximum of 20 years, a fine of \$250,000 or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Russell T. Ippolito, Jr., who is handling the case, stated that on October 22, 2011, law enforcement officers downloaded eight video files from the defendant's computer which contained child pornography. Officers then obtained a search warrant for the Ortman's home and seized his computer. A forensic examination of the computer determined that Ortman possessed, received and distributed in excess of 600 images and videos of child pornography.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

The plea is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of Special Agent-In-Charge James C. Spero.

Sentencing is scheduled for March 6, 2012 at 12:30 p.m. before Judge Arcara.

####