



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEATTLE MAN ARRESTED IN PARKER FOR TRAVELING IN INTERSTATE COMMERCE WITH INTENT TO ENGAGE IN SEX WITH CHILDREN

DENVER – Gary Lee Waffle, 68, of Seattle, Washington, was arrested in Parker, Colorado earlier today in connection with his travel to Colorado to engage in sex with children, United States Attorney David Gaouette, Parker Police Chief David King, and Kumar Kibble, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agent in charge announced.

According to the facts contained in the affidavit in support of the Criminal Complaint, on January 28, 2010, a detective at the Parker Police Department was working in an undercover capacity as a 31-year-old mother of two named “Stacy.” She was online in an IRC chat channel when she was contacted by Waffle using a screen name alias. Waffle asked what “Stacy” was into, and said he was there to learn what parents can do to play with their kids sexually. After a brief chat in reference to “Stacy’s” (fictional) 6-year-old daughter “Brie,” he said he would be willing to come to Parker to have sex with “Brie.” Waffle and the agent continued to have internet conversations over the next four months. Waffle subsequently informed “Stacy” that he was planning on traveling to Denver on July 29, 2010 so he could have sex with “Brie.” Waffle and “Stacy” agreed to meet at a restaurant in Parker.

On the morning of July 29, 2010, Waffle met with “Stacy,” who was wired to record their conversation. Waffle discussed how he was excited to meet “Brie,” and to have sex with her. Waffle was then arrested.

Waffled was charged by Criminal Complaint with (1) Traveling With Intent to Engage in Illicit Sexual Conduct; (2) Aggravated Sexual Abuse with Children; and (3) Attempted Coercion and Enticement, following his arrest in Parker. If convicted, Waffle faces not more than 30 years in federal prison, and up to a \$250,000 fine, or both in connection with each of the first two charges, and not more than life imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine, or both, on the third charge. Waffle will appear in U.S. District Court on Tuesday, August 3, 2010 before U.S. Magistrate Judge Michael J. Watanabe for a detention hearing and preliminary hearing.

A Criminal Complaint is a probable cause charging document. The charges contained in the Complaint are allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. Anyone accused of a federal felony crime has a constitutional right to be indicted by a federal grand jury.

This case was investigated jointly by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Parker Police Department. The Parker Police Department is a member of the national ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children) Task Force, which is funded by a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Parents are reminded to monitor their children's online activity. For information on ICAC, please contact either Doreen Jokerst at 303.805.3335 or 303.961.7467, or Sara Walla at 303.901.8001 at the Parker Police Department.

This investigation was part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 12,800 individuals. ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators. Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

"This case shows how important it is for law enforcement agencies to work together to identify, arrest and prosecute brazen predators who would travel across state lines to have sex with a small child," said Kumar Kibble, special agent in charge of the ICE Office of Homeland Security Investigations in Denver. "Removing these predators from our streets helps protect the most vulnerable and innocent members of

society - our children." Kibble oversees a four-state area, including Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming.

The defendant is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Judith Smith, 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.

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