



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias
Northern District of Georgia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Patrick Crosby

(404)581-6016

FAX (404)581-6160

CONVICTED CHILD MOLESTER CHARGED WITH MAILING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY TO INMATE IN STATE PRISON

Atlanta, GA - PRESTON DANIEL COOPER, 43, of Atlanta, Georgia was arrested on May 15, 2009, on a federal criminal complaint charging him with mailing child pornography. COOPER is scheduled to appear for a preliminary hearing and detention hearing at 1:45 p.m. on Wednesday, May 20, 2009, before United States Magistrate Judge Linda T. Walker.

“After spending 15 years behind bars for sexually molesting a young girl, this defendant allegedly committed another act of sexual exploitation against children and will now face many more years in prison” said United States Attorney David E. Nahmias. “The defendant allegedly thought he could get away with sending child pornography to an inmate in a Georgia prison if he concealed it in an Easter card. He was wrong.”

“The use of the U.S. mails to victimize children will not be tolerated, plain and simple,” said Martin D. Phanco, Postal Inspector in Charge.

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the documents and information presented in court: In April 2009, the United States Postal Inspection Service began investigating mail received by an inmate at Telfair State Prison. Concealed in an Easter card mailed to the inmate were several images of child pornography. Their investigation lead them to PRESTON DANIEL COOPER. COOPER, who was convicted in 1993 of aggravated child molestation based on the molestation of a 5 year old girl, had been an inmate at another state prison with the man to whom he sent the Easter card. At the time he allegedly mailed the card, COOPER had been released from prison and was living in Atlanta. A subsequent search of COOPER’S residence allegedly found images of child pornography on a computer.

If convicted, COOPER faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years and a maximum sentence of 40 years in prison. COOPER also could be fined up to \$250,000. In determining the actual sentence, the Court will consider the United States Sentencing Guidelines, which are not binding but provide appropriate sentencing ranges for most offenders.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment only contains charges. The defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Attorney General launched Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorney's Offices around the country, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

This case is being investigated by Postal Inspectors with the United States Postal Inspection Service with assistance from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) and DeKalb County Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorney Francey Hakes is prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.