



U.S. Department of Justice

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JANESVILLE MAN INDICTED FOR USING INTERNET TO ARRANGE SEX WITH SOUTH BELOIT MINOR AND TRAVELING TO SOUTH BELOIT FOR THAT SEX

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; and THOMAS J. KNEIR, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, today made the following announcement:

A federal grand jury in Rockford today indicted **LESLIE LETTS**, 35 (DOB: 01/23/69), of 1834 Garden Drive, Janesville, Wisconsin, on federal charges arising from his alleged use of the internet to arrange sex with what LETTS believed to be a 13 year old South Beloit, Illinois girl. LETTS was arrested by federal authorities on March 12, 2004, when he allegedly traveled to South Beloit for the sexual activity.

Today's indictment charges LETTS with one count of using interstate commerce, by means of the internet and telephone, between February 3 and March 10, 2004, to persuade a person he believed to be a 13 year old minor to engage in a sexual act, and with one count of traveling across state lines from Wisconsin to Illinois, on March 12, 2004, for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct with a person he believed to be a 13 year old minor. The person LETTS believed to be a 13 year old minor was in fact an undercover law enforcement officer, according to the indictment.

According to a criminal complaint filed in Rockford federal court in Rockford, Illinois at the time of his arrest, LETTS used the internet to locate a 13 year old girl's internet profile and began to exchange communications which were sexual in nature. Local police were contacted and an investigation took place. Internet and telephone communications continued between LETTS and law enforcement officers posing as the minor who were working on a task force set up to investigate and identify the activities of persons suspected of sexually exploiting or sexually abusing children, the complaint alleges.

Following his arrest on March 12, 2004, the United States Attorney's Office requested that LETTS be held in custody without bond until trial. On March 18, 2004, however, LETTS was released on bond by the United States District Court, and ordered to reside with his father, Amos Letts, in Beloit, Wisconsin.

If convicted, LETTS faces a maximum potential penalty on each count of up to 30 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. If convicted, the actual sentence will be determined by United States District Court Judge Reinhard, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The case was investigated by the Chicago Federal Bureau of Investigation's Innocent Images Task Force, the Rockford Office of the FBI, the South Beloit, Illinois Police Department, Winnebago County Sheriff's Department and the Naperville, Illinois Police Department. The Innocent Images Task Force is

comprised of FBI Special Agents, Inspectors from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Investigators from the Cook County Sheriff's Police Department and Detectives from the Palos Heights, Illinois Police Department. Assistance was also provided by the Madison, Wisconsin United States Attorney's Office, the Milwaukee Division of the FBI, and the Janesville, Wisconsin Police Department. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Rockford Assistant United States Attorney Monica V. Mallory.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is entitled to a fair trial at which time the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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