



U.S. Department of Justice

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JANESVILLE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHARGES OF USING INTERNET TO ARRANGE SEX WITH SOUTH BELOIT MINOR

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:

LESLIE LETTS, 35 (DOB: 01/23/69), of 1834 Garden Drive, Janesville, Wisconsin, plead guilty today in federal court in Rockford to using 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 traveled to South Beloit for the sexual activity.

In pleading guilty, LETTS admitted that between February 3 and March 10, 2004, he used the internet and telephone to persuade a person he believed to be a 13 year old minor to engage in a sexual act. Specifically, LETTS admitted he used the internet to locate a 13 year old girl's internet profile and began to exchange communications which were sexual in nature. LETTS initial communication was intercepted by the child's mother who contacted law enforcement authorities. LETTS admitted that from February 29 through March 10, 2004, he continued online and telephone conversations with a person he believed to be a 13 year old minor, who was in fact an undercover police officer posing as the minor. LETTS also admitted that on March 12, 2004, he traveled from Janesville, Wisconsin to South Beloit, Illinois, for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct with a person he believed to be a 13 year old minor.

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. He was later restricted to home confinement at his father's residence. LETTS was ordered to surrender to the U.S. Marshal's Office on August 10, 2004.

Sentencing for LETTS will be conducted on October 22, 2004 at 1:30 p.m. LETTS faces a maximum potential penalty of up to 30 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. His 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.

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