



## U.S. Department of Justice

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### **FORRESTON MAN INDICTED ON FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES**

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and KENNETH T. LAAG, Postal Inspector-in-Charge of the Chicago Office of the United States Postal Service, today made the following announcement:

A federal grand jury in Rockford yesterday (June 21, 2005) indicted **MATTHEW W. WHITED**, 39 (DOB: 3/8/1966), of Forreston, Illinois, for transporting, possessing and receiving child pornography which had traveled across state lines.

The indictment charges Whited with two counts of transporting images of child pornography via the internet on September 15, 2003 and July 4, 2004; one count of receiving a video on July 29, 2004 which depicted child pornography; and one count of possessing images, computer files and videos on July 29, 2004, of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

Whited is scheduled to make his initial appearance in federal court on Monday, June 27, 2005, at 10:30 a.m. At that time, United States Magistrate Judge P. Michael Mahoney will arraign Whited on the charges contained in the indictment.

If convicted of the current charges, the defendant faces a maximum potential sentence of up to 25 years in prison and a \$500,000 fine. If convicted, the actual sentence will be determined by a United States District Court Judge, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The case was investigated by the Chicago office of the United States Postal Service, assisted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Ogle County Sheriff's Department. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Michael D. Love.

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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