



*United States Attorney
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**GEORGIA MAN ARRESTED FOR SENDING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY TO A
MINOR AND TRAVELING TO NEW YORK TO ENGAGE IN SEXUAL
ACTS WITH A TWELVE-YEAR-OLD GIRL**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, MARK J. MERSHON, the Assistant Director-in-Charge of the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), and RAYMOND W. KELLY, the Police Commissioner of the City of New York, announced that GERALD ALAN HARRIS was arrested on Friday, July 13, 2007, by agents of the FBI and members of the Bronx District Attorney's Office Squad on charges of distributing child pornography over the Internet, attempting to send obscene materials to a child under the age of sixteen, attempting to entice a minor to engage in sexual activity, and traveling in interstate commerce for the purpose of engaging in sexual acts with an individual whom he believed to be a twelve-year-old girl. According to the Complaint filed on Friday in Manhattan federal court:

From June 22, 2007 to July 13, 2007, HARRIS, who lives in Georgia, engaged in several instant messaging "chats" on the Internet with individuals he believed to be a thirty-three-year-old mother in the Bronx and her twelve-year-old daughter. In fact, an undercover detective from the Bronx District Attorney's Office Squad was posing as both mother and daughter. During the

course of these conversations, HARRIS sent the undercover detective multiple images of child pornography via electronic mail, some of which depicted explicit sexual acts between minors and adults. HARRIS also graphically described to the undercover detective the sexual activities he planned to engage in with mother and daughter when they met in person.

In July 2007, HARRIS arranged to meet the mother and daughter at a coffee shop in the Bronx on July 13, 2007. When HARRIS arrived at the prearranged location, he was arrested by agents of the FBI and members of the New York City Police Department. HARRIS was presented before Magistrate Judge THEODORE H.KATZ in United States District Court for the Southern District of New York on Saturday, July 14, 2007. If convicted, HARRIS faces a possible maximum sentence of life in prison.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative efforts of the FBI and the NYPD in this case and also thanked the Bronx District Attorney's Office for its cooperation in the investigation of this case and its referral for prosecution under federal law.

Assistant United States Attorney CHRISTIAN R. EVERDELL is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges and allegations contained in the Complaint are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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