



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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**FORMER NEW YORK CITY TEACHER SENTENCED IN MANHATTAN  
FEDERAL COURT TO 6.5 YEARS IN PRISON  
FOR RECEIVING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that JOHN E. THOMAS, a former teacher and summer camp counselor, was sentenced today in Manhattan federal court to six-and-a-half years in prison for receiving child pornography. THOMAS, 29, of Manhattan, previously pled guilty before U.S. District Judge KEVIN T. DUFFY in April 2011.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA said: "It is deeply disturbing when someone entrusted with looking after children is found to have contributed to their exploitation. With today's sentence, John Thomas will now be behind bars where he belongs."

According to the Information to which THOMAS pled guilty, documents previously filed in Manhattan federal court, statements made during the guilty plea proceeding, and other information in the public record:

THOMAS, who taught fourth and fifth grade students and worked as a summer day camp counselor prior to his arrest, possessed images of child pornography that he downloaded from the Internet. A computer and other digital media that were seized from his residence during an August 2010 search were found to contain numerous images and videos of minor children engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

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In addition to his prison term, Judge DUFFY sentenced THOMAS to years of supervised release and was ordered to forfeit any property constituting or derived from proceeds obtained by the defendant directly or indirectly as a result of the offense, and any property used in the commission of the offense.

Mr. BHARARA praised the work of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Homeland Security Investigations in this case.

This case is being prosecuted by the General Crimes Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorney CHRISTOPHER DIMASE is in charge of the prosecution.

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