

## Department of Justice

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## COLUMBUS MAN SENTENCED TO 87 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR RECEIPT OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

COLUMBUS – Cody W. Sippola, 37, of Columbus, was sentenced in United States District Court here today to 87 months imprisonment after pleading guilty to one count of receipt of child pornography on November 24, 2009.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, and members of the Franklin County Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force announced the sentence handed down today before United States District Judge Michael H. Watson.

Sippola was arrested on October 15, 2009 after investigators found him sharing over the Internet videos and images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. According to a statement of facts presented during the November plea hearing, a Franklin County Sheriff's Detective was engaged in an Internet investigation in September, 2009 and observed an Internet Protocol (IP) address as a download candidate for suspected child pornography. Further investigation revealed that the subscriber information for that IP address came back to Sippola's residence.

Investigators obtained a search warrant for Sippola's house and seized a laptop computer. Forensic analysis of the computer discovered approximately 250 images of nude, prepubescent females, posed in sexually explicit poses.

Sippola must serve 10 years on supervised release, a form of probation, after he completes his prison term.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

Agencies participating in the Franklin County Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, led by Franklin County Sheriff Jim Karnes' office, include the police departments from Westerville, Upper Arlington and Columbus.

Stewart commended the task force officers who investigated the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Hunter, who prosecuted the case.