



**Department of Justice**  
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**Southern District of West Virginia**

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**PUTNAM COUNTY MAN SENTENCED TO EIGHT YEARS IN PRISON**

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. – Russell Eugene Lemon, 41, of Eleanor, West Virginia, was sentenced yesterday by United States District Judge Robert C. Chambers to 98 months in prison followed by a 15 year term of supervised release. Lemon previously pleaded guilty in February 2010, admitting he distributed and possessed child pornography.

In February 2008, Inspectors with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service began investigating Lemon for distributing graphic images depicting the sexual abuse of children. During the investigation, an undercover agent began chatting online with Lemon who had previously distributed child pornography to an individual in California. Lemon told the agent he had child pornographic images and videos that he wanted to trade. Lemon gave the undercover agent his mailing address so the agent could send him child pornography. Lemon then shared with the agent various images of child pornography contained in his collection, including a video depicting a child being sexually abused.

Based on this information, a search warrant was obtained and executed at Lemon's residence in Putnam County, West Virginia. There, agents found a computer containing hundreds of images and several videos depicting child pornography. Many of the images and videos depict children who have been identified by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and many of children depicted are under the age of 12 years. Several of the images and videos also depict sadistic and masochistic conduct.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Karen B. Schommer handled the prosecution.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Department of Justice created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, 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 identify and rescue victims. For more information about cases and related activities please visit [www.usdoj.gov/usao/wvs](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/wvs) and [www.projectsafechildhood.gov/](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov/).

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