



Department of Justice

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CAPE GIRARDEAU MAN SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO - United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway announced this afternoon that a Cape Girardeau County man was sentenced to prison on felony child pornography charges.

Kevin D. Otterson, 43, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, was sentenced to 235 months imprisonment for transportation and possession of child pornography. Upon release from prison, Otterson will be placed on supervised release for the remainder of his life. He appeared before U.S. District Judge Jean C. Hamilton on Friday, September 29, 2006 in St. Louis.

Otterson admitted that on January 12, 2005, a search warrant was executed at his residence located at 115 North Fountain Street, Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Law enforcement officers seized the defendant's computer. Analysis of the saved files revealed that the defendant possessed more than 10 images of child pornography, but less than 150 images. Furthermore, some of the images depicted children under the age of twelve in extreme sexual acts with adult males.

This case was charged as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales 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 Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafchildhood.gov/.

Hanaway commended the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Cape Girardeau Police Department, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for their combined efforts to prosecute this case. Assistant United States Attorney Abbie Crites-Leoni handled the prosecution for the Government.

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