

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO TRANSPORTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

BUFFALO, N.Y.--Christopher A. Fry, 40, of Sterling Height, MI, pleaded guilty before Chief U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara, to a felony charge of transporting child pornography, Acting U.S. Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter of the Western District of New York announced today. Knowingly transporting child pornography carries a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment, a mandatory minimum penalty of 5 years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, or both, a mandatory \$100 special assessment and a term of supervised release of up to life.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Aaron J. Mango, who handled the case, stated that on or about April 29, 2008, the defendant knowingly transported images of child pornography stored on a laptop computer from the Western District of New York to Canada. Specifically, the child pornography was contained on a laptop computer in the defendant's possession when he traveled from Buffalo, NY to Canada, via the Peace Bridge. The laptop contained more than 600 images of child pornography on his computer. Some of the child pornography possessed by the defendant depicted prepubescent minors or minors less than 12 years old. Additionally, some of the pornography in the defendant's possession contained sadistic or masochistic conduct or other depictions of violence which would have been painful to the child.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. 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.projectsafchildhood.gov.

The plea was the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, under the direction of Lev Kodiak, Special Agent In Charge.

Sentencing is scheduled for May 29, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. EST, in Buffalo, N.Y., in front of Chief U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara.