

Salem man pleads guilty to trading child porn, sex abuse

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

28-year old Christopher Mark Mills of Salem, Oregon, entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Court Judge Ancer L. Haggerty to advertising child pornography. Mills admitted he advertised and offered to make his child pornography images available to others under terms wherein an exchange would be made on a one-for-one basis. Mills stated that he was often away from his computer while others accessed his file server and traded child pornography in accordance with rules he established for trading such files. The defendant's computer contained over 2,600 images of known child victims, and included torture and sadomasochistic images of child pornography. Mills also admitted to sexually abusing a minor child in his residence.

U.S. Attorney Karin J. Immergut commended Portland Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents for their excellent investigation. ICE agents in Oregon and Montana became aware of Mills' prolific trading on an Internet site frequented by child pornography traders. ICE agents obtained child pornography images from Mills on the Internet on June 23, 2006, and served a search warrant at Mills' Salem residence on October 4, 2006.

The minimum penalty for this crime is 15 years in prison, with a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison. Sentencing is scheduled for July 2, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. Mills has been detained since his arrest in October 2006.

This case was brought 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.projectsafechildhood.gov. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Johnathan S. Haub.

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