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February 12, 2007

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MERCED MAN SENTENCED TO 19 1/2 YEARS IN PRISON FOR DISTRIBUTING, RECEIVING, AND POSSESSING IMAGES OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AS WELL AS ATTEMPTING TO ENTICE A MINOR INTO ILLEGAL SEXUAL ACTIVITIES

FRESNO - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that FLOYD WAYNE STANLEY, 66, of Merced, California was sentenced by United States District Judge Oliver W. Wanger to a prison term of 235 months (19 years 7 months) for his convictions of one count of distributing and receiving visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors, one count of possessing similar images, and one count of attempting to persuade or coerce a minor to engage in illegal sexual activities. He was convicted after a jury trial that ended on December 1, 2006. His term of imprisonment will be followed by a term of supervised release of 60 months during which he will be required to register as a sex offender, and his access to children, computers, and the internet will be restricted.

The case began in June 2005 when detectives with the Bay County (Florida) Sheriff's Department received images of child pornography from the defendant during sexually explicit chat sessions that the defendant initiated. The defendant believed that he was communicating with a thirteen year-old girl. He sent the images of child pornography as part of his effort to have the victim engage in sexually explicit activities with various adults as well as to take sexually explicit images of herself. The defendant repeatedly initiated sexually explicit discussions via Yahoo! Instant Messenger with the victim, sent the victim sexually explicit images of himself, engaged in a sexually explicit telephone conversation, and discussed traveling to Florida to meet the victim.

Florida detectives worked with the Merced, California Police Department and the Fresno Office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement to identify the defendant. A search warrant was executed at the defendant's residence on October 5, 2005, and more than 800 still images and 36 video files of child pornography were seized on a computer hard drive as well as on numerous compact discs and zip discs. When questioned about the material, the defendant stated that he did not see anything wrong with the images, and several of the children being abused actually appeared to be enjoying themselves.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Sheila Oberto and David Gappa, who prosecuted the case, when the court imposed its sentence, it stated that the defendant's crimes were "heinous," and the punishment for his offenses needed to be commensurate with the irreparable harm done to victims. The government presented a letter from one victim whose images the defendant possessed. She stated that "usually when someone is raped and abused, the criminal goes to prison and the abuse ends. . . . But since . . . these pictures [are] on the Internet, my abuse is still going on. Anyone can see them. People ask for them and are still downloading them. Day after day. People want to see me being abused. Child pornography is not a victimless crime. I am a victim and I still suffer everyday and every time someone sees me being abused."

STANLEY was remanded into federal custody, as both a danger to the community and a risk of flight, following the return of his guilty verdicts on December 1, 2006.

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