

State of New Mexico



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PRESS RELEASE

AG Madrid's Internet Crimes Unit Collaborates In Arrest of Suspected Delaware Sex Offender

(Albuquerque, NM)— Following an initial investigation by Attorney General Patricia Madrid's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Unit, a suspected sex offender was arrested Friday morning in Dewey Beach, Delaware. The suspect, 28 year old Jeff Campbell, had been soliciting sex and child pornography since April from a New Mexico ICAC agent posing as a 12 year old girl.

Attorney General Madrid said, "This is an excellent example of how my ICAC team works together with other law enforcement agencies. This predator might not have been caught had it not been for the patience and tenacity of my ICAC Unit, who first started chatting with the suspect in April. I also want to commend the excellent collaborative work of my agents with those of the Virginia Beach Computer Crimes Unit and the Delaware State Police High Technology Crimes Unit."

An agent of Madrid's ICAC Unit, posing as a 12 year old, was contacted by Campbell during an online chat session in April and has been communicating with him since then. Campbell, who was using the screen name "hippee1010," solicited the supposed 12 year old for sex. He also requested that she ask other young girls under 13 for naked pictures of themselves and send them to him, and to runaway to Delaware for the purpose of sexual activity with him.

The ICAC agent contacted a colleague who works as a detective in the Virginia Beach, Virginia Computer Crimes Unit. The Virginia Beach detective, also posing as a 12 year old girl, began communicating with Campbell. Throughout the investigation, it appeared that Campbell was not willing to travel to New Mexico or Virginia to meet either "girl." The two agencies forwarded the case to a detective from the Delaware State Police High Technology Crimes Unit in September. After receiving the case, members of the Delaware State Police Department worked diligently to further the investigation from their jurisdiction, where Campbell lived.

Based on the investigations referred to them by the New Mexico ICAC and the Virginia Beach detective, a search warrant was executed Friday morning at Campbell's residence and a "forensic preview" of his computer was conducted on scene. Countless images, movies, and web cam still shots depicting child pornography were uncovered on Campbell's computer. Campbell was then arrested by Delaware State Police officers and is undergoing questioning. During questioning, Campbell confessed to communicating with up to 20 other underage children and soliciting sex from them, as well as to recording webcam video they had sent him. Campbell is initially being charged with seven counts of Child Solicitation by Computer.

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Attorney General Madrid's ICAC agents are asking for the public's assistance in locating other potential victims or those who may have communicated with Campbell or with screen name "hippee1010" in a Yahoo! chat room or in Yahoo! Instant Messaging. Reports may be filed anonymously by logging onto www.NMCyberSafety.org or by calling (505) 222-9000 and ask to speak to an ICAC investigator.

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Attached is a photo of Campbell.

