



# NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **FORMER PLATTE CITY MAN PLEADS GUILTY, SENTENCED ON STATE & FEDERAL CHARGES FOR SODOMY AND CHILD PORN**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, Eric F. Melgren, United States Attorney for the District of Kansas, and Eric G. Zahnd, Prosecuting Attorney for Platte County, announced that a former Platte City, Mo., man has been sentenced on both state and federal charges related to sodomy and child pornography.

**Andy M. Deuninck**, 41, formerly of Platte City, Mo., pleaded guilty in Platte County Circuit Court today and was sentenced to 25 years in state prison for statutory sodomy in the first degree. **Deuninck** admitted before Presiding Circuit Judge Owens Lee Hull, Jr., that he had deviate sexual intercourse with a 4-year-old girl between Nov. 9, 1995 and June 1, 2000.

**Deuninck** was sentenced on Sept. 29, 2003, in U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Kan., to 12 years and seven months in federal prison without parole. Graves noted that this was the longest sentence available under the federal sentencing guidelines. On July 8, 2003, **Deuninck** pleaded guilty to producing child pornography.

Zahnd and Graves underscored the partnership between state and federal law enforcement officials who investigated and prosecuted the case in their respective jurisdictions.

“By working together with the US Attorney's Office to prosecute the defendant at both the state and federal levels, we were able to guarantee that he will spend more than two decades behind bars,” Zahnd said. “Criminals do not respect jurisdictional boundaries and neither do our

offices. In Platte County, state and federal law enforcement agencies will continue to work across jurisdictional lines to prosecute criminals who commit heinous crimes.”

Graves explained that each office prosecuted the charges that were most appropriate for their jurisdiction. “Our goal was to gain the harshest punishment possible for the scope of the defendant’s criminal behavior,” Graves said. “Federal statutes provide a harsher punishment than state law for the child pornography violation, while state court was a better venue to get the longest possible sentence on the sodomy violation.

“This joint effort,” Graves added, “enabled both of us to maximize our resources to obtain a longer prison sentence than either could have achieved by working alone.”

According to Zahnd, the investigation began when the husband of a woman in New York, with whom **Deuinck** had been having an on-line affair, found child pornography on their home computer and contacted the Department of Social Services in New York on Aug. 4, 2000. The man told authorities that when his wife left him, he began searching their home computer for information about her whereabouts and discovered images of child pornography that had been sent by **Deuinck**. In computer records of their Internet chat sessions, Zahnd said, **Deuinck** described in detail how he molested a 4-year-old girl.

The Missouri Division of Family Services, after receiving a report from New York, contacted the Platte City, Mo., Police Department.

“The defendant sodomized a young girl and then sent pictures of his sickening crime across the Internet,” Zahnd said. “The absolutely horrible nature of this man's actions warranted every effort to bring him to justice and see that he spends a long, long time in prison.”

“This little girl was victimized in two respects,” Graves agreed. “She was a victim of the sodomy violation that was prosecuted at the state level, and victimized when this defendant took pictures of his despicable actions and sent them over the Internet, which was prosecuted at the federal level. The combined clout of state and federal prosecution punishes her assailant for both aspects of his criminal conduct.”

**Deuinck** admitted in federal court that he took pornographic photos of a 4-year-old girl between Dec. 25, 1999 and March 7, 2000, Graves said, and transmitted those photos over the Internet. **Deuinck** also admitted that between Oct. 1, 1999 and June 1, 2000, he transmitted over the Internet at least 20 images of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct. Some of those photos, Graves said, portrayed minors under the age of 12. Some of the images portrayed sadistic or masochistic conduct, or other depictions of violence.

Graves explained that, while the federal charges were prosecuted by attorneys from the Western District of Missouri, the case was filed in the District of Kansas. **Deuinck** transported the child pornography from his home in Platte City to his office at the Munson Army Health Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where he worked for Science Applications International Corporation. **Deuinck** loaded those images onto his work computer, Graves said, and

transmitted them over the Internet from his work computer to the woman in New York.

The federal case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Katharine Fincham and David M. Ketchmark. The state case was prosecuted by David M. Ketchmark, who has been cross-designated as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for the Platte County Prosecutor's Office. The case was investigated by the Platte City, Mo., Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Brooklyn, New York Police Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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