



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOPLIN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ADVERTISING TO TRADE CHILD PORN ON THE INTERNET

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Joplin, Mo., man has pleaded guilty in federal court to advertising to trade child pornography over the Internet.

John R. Farlow, 32, of Joplin, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge James C. England on Monday, June 9, 2003 to the charges contained in a federal indictment that was returned on Oct. 9, 2002.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Farlow** admitted to advertising to receive, exchange and distribute child pornography via Internet chat rooms.

On Dec. 5, 2001, **Farlow** activated mIRC and Panzer software – Internet Relay Chat and file sharing programs – on the computer at his Joplin home to advertise the availability of child pornography on his computer and to trade images of child pornography on his computer with others over the Internet. **Farlow** programmed his computer to enter several Internet relay chat rooms. Graves explained that **Farlow** had configured his file server to make a variety of photos and movies on his computer available to these chat rooms. Some of the images, Graves added, were of children under the age of 12, and some depicted sadistic, masochistic, or otherwise violent sexual conduct with minors.

Farlow offered to trade four of his images of child pornography for each image supplied to his computer by others who accessed his file server through these chat rooms.

An investigator with the German Police Force's computer Crime Squad, acting in an undercover and investigative capacity in the Federal Republic of Germany, entered one of the chat rooms. The agent sent several non-pornographic images to **Farlow's** computer in order to access his files, Graves said, retrieving 11 images of child pornography in exchange. Several of

the images, Graves added, were of a 4- to 5-year-old girl, while others were of girls ranging in age from 5 to 7 years old, all engaging in sexually explicit conduct. The German police then notified the United States Customs Service, which obtained a search warrant for **Farlow's** home and computer.

Farlow also agreed to forfeit to the United States the computer-related equipment and paraphernalia used to commit the offense, including computer hardware and 11 CD-ROMs containing child pornography.

As a result of his guilty plea, **Farlow** may be subject to a sentence of at least 10 years and up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. The sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Katharine Fincham. It was investigated by the U.S. Customs Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow