



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDEPENDENCE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence man pleaded guilty in federal court today to receiving child pornography.

Larry Dean Lamastres, 43, of Independence, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on April 1, 2003.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Lamastres** admitted that he received in the mail on Oct. 18, 2002, a visual depiction of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

Lamastres was arrested as a result of an investigation conducted by a detective with the Dallas, Texas, Police Department, Graves said. The detective, using an undercover Internet name, contacted **Lamastres** on-line and introduced himself as an individual with similar interest in child pornography. **Lamastres** told the undercover detective that he possessed images of child pornography, and was interested in trading and receiving images of child pornography. **Lamastres** also told the undercover detective how to access his computer to view his images of child pornography, and directed him to a Web site from which he could access child pornography.

On Sept. 19, 2002, Graves said, **Lamastres** sent the undercover detective more than a dozen images of child pornography over the Internet. **Lamastres** asked the undercover detective to send him videotapes of children under the age of 10 engaged in sexual intercourse, including babies.

In conjunction with agents of the United States Postal Inspection Service, Graves said, two videotapes containing visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct were

sent from Texas to the USPIS office in Kansas City. On Oct. 18, 2002, a controlled delivery was made to **Lamastres'** Independence home, where he signed for the package.

A federal search warrant was executed the same day, and inspectors recovered both of the videotapes from the controlled delivery. One of the videotapes, Graves said, was playing in the VCR when the agents arrived. The search team also found a computer that contained approximately 7,000 pictures of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct, ranging from infants to boys and girls in their early teens. Some of the images depicted the children in bondage. One of the minors depicted in these images, Graves added, was a known victim of sexual abuse in a case successfully prosecuted in Clay and Platte counties. **Lamastres** said he obtained some of the images by trading with 30 or 40 people over the Internet.

As a result of today's guilty plea, **Lamastres** could be subject to a sentence of up to 15 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. The case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service and the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

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