



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORMER STATE EMPLOYEE OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORN

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that the former supervisor of the Division of Child Support Enforcement in Joplin, Mo., has been sentenced in federal court for possession of child pornography.

Wesley George Thorn, 46, of Carl Junction, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith on Oct. 16, 2003, to two years and three months in federal prison without parole.

Thorn worked as supervisor of the Division of Child Support Enforcement, which is an office of the Missouri Department of Social Services.

On July 15, 2003, **Thorn** pleaded guilty to possession of child pornography. He admitted that he was in possession of child pornography on Feb. 8, 2002, in Jasper County, Mo.

Thorn was originally charged with possessing child pornography in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Oct. 1, 2002, in Springfield.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Katharine Fincham. It was investigated by the Missouri Department of Social Services, the Joplin, Mo., Police Department, the Missouri State Technical Assistance Team, 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

