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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 20, 2008

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ARVADA MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

DENVER – Edward Erikson, age 41, of Arvada, Colorado, was sentenced late last week by U.S. District Court Judge Wiley Y. Daniel to serve 84 months (7 years) in federal prison for possession of child pornography, U.S. Attorney Troy Eid and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Special Agent in Charge in Denver Jeffrey Copp announced today. Erikson, who is free on bond, was ordered to report to a Bureau of Prisons facility after designation.

Erikson was indicted by a federal grand jury on July 10, 2007. He pled guilty before Judge Daniel on February 15, 2008. He was sentenced by Judge Daniel on May 16, 2008.

According to the stipulated facts outlined in the plea agreement, on November 3, 2006, Erikson downloaded child pornography from a Google group. A subsequent court ordered search by an ICE computer forensic analyst determined that Erikson possessed in excess of 600 images of child pornography.

“These cases are prosecuted to protect our children from exploitation,” said U.S. Attorney Troy Eid.

This case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

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Page 2

“Each of the children included in the 600 images seized from Edward Erekson is a helpless and innocent victim,” said Jeffrey Copp, special agent in charge of the ICE office of Investigations in Denver. “As distasteful as the subject of child pornography is, our ICE agents derive great satisfaction from helping to ensure that justice is served. We hope these investigations and prosecutions serve some justice to the victims, and deter others who might consider creating, sharing or using child pornography.” Copp oversees a four-state area which includes: Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Roxane Perruso.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Department of Justice launched Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorney’s Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit <http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov/>.

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