



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COLORADO SPRINGS MAN INDICTED FOR PRODUCING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

DENVER - Bill Leone, Acting United States Attorney for the District of Colorado, and Jeffrey Copp, Special Agent in Charge of the Denver office of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), today announced that **ROGER DEATHERAGE**, age 53, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Denver late yesterday on child pornography charges. **DEATHERAGE** is presently in state custody after being the subject of a manhunt lead by the Colorado Springs Police Department for related state charges. Colorado Springs Crimestoppers played an integral role in the defendant's apprehension. The U.S. Marshal Service will be ordered to transfer **DEATHERAGE** from state to federal custody for federal court proceedings. No initial appearance date has yet been set.

According to the indictment, between August 27, 2004 until about November 14, 2004, **DEATHERAGE** allegedly induced a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing photo depictions of the sexual conduct, knowing and having reason to know that such visual depictions would be transported in interstate commerce by any means. **DEATHERAGE** is also charged with possession of child pornography, including possession of a computer CPU containing at least 17 images of minors engaged in sexual activity.

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DEATH RAGE INDICTMENT

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If convicted of the charge of production of child pornography the defendant faces a mandatory minimum of 15 years and up to 30 years in federal prison, and/or a \$250,000 fine. If convicted of possession of child pornography the defendant faces up to 10 years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine. The actual sentence will be determined by a federal judge.

“Production of child pornography is one of the most egregious child exploitation crimes our office prosecutes,” said Acting United States Attorney Bill Leone. “The facts of this case and the related state prosecution allege that this dangerous individual not only harmed an innocent child, but that he also documented that criminal behavior for him and possibly others to use and distribute later.”

“Our ICE special agents throughout Colorado enjoy a partnership with local law enforcement – such as the Colorado Springs Police Department – that ultimately leads to removing criminals from our streets,” said Jeffrey Copp, Special Agent in Charge of the ICE Denver office. “In this partnership, everybody wins, except the criminals. However, one of our highest priorities is protecting our nation’s greatest resource – our children – from child pornographers and predators.” Copp heads the ICE Office of Investigations in Denver, which includes the states of Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho.

This case was investigated by the Colorado Springs Police Department with assistance by Special Agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Valeria Spencer.

These charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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