



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY McMASTER
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

For Immediate Release
November 7, 2007

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Spartanburg Sheriff Arrests West Columbia Man in Internet Predator Sting *100th Arrest Made by Internet Predator Task Force*

Columbia - Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Samuel Hugh Wilds, Jr., 53, of 940 Glenn Street, Apt. 906, in West Columbia, was arrested on November 5, 2007, in an undercover Internet sting conducted by the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office.

The Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office is a member of the Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

Wilds was arrested on one (1) count of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor (§ 16-15-342), a felony offense punishable to ten (10) years imprisonment on each count.

An arrest warrant alleges that beginning on July 17, 2007, Wilds solicited sex on the Internet from an individual he believed to be a thirteen (13) year old girl. In reality, he was communicating with undercover Spartanburg County Sheriff's Deputies.

A search warrant executed at Wilds' residence resulted in the seizure of a laptop computer, a webcam, a camera, a video gaming system, and various computer related items.

The West Columbia Police Department (also an ICAC Task Force member) assisted with the arrest and search warrant.

Wilds was assigned a bond of \$7,500. [A booking photo is available through the Spartanburg County Detention Center.](#)

This is the one-hundredth (100th) arrest for the Task Force.

The case will be prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office.

McMaster stressed that all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until they are proven guilty in a court of law.

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