



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY McMASTER
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Richland County Makes First Arrest in Internet Predator Sting

Columbia - Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Hoang Hong Huynh, 23, of 960 Buckley Place in Norcross, G.A. (stationed at Camp Lejeune, N.C.), was arrested on February 19, 2007, in an undercover Internet sting conducted by the Richland County Sheriff's Department.

Richland County was announced as a member of the Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force in mid-December 2006.

Huynh was arrested on one (1) count of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor (§ 16-15-342), a felony offense punishable to ten (10) years imprisonment and one (1) count of Attempted Criminal Sexual Conduct With a Minor (§ 16-3-655(B)), a felony offense punishable to twenty (20) years imprisonment.

Arrest warrants allege that Huynh began online "chats" on February 19, 2007, with a person he believed to be a thirteen (13) year old girl. In reality, he was communicating with an undercover Richland County Sheriff's Deputy. Huynh further arranged to meet the "girl" for sex at a predetermined location in the Columbia area. He was arrested upon his arrival at that location the same day.

Huynh was assigned a \$150,000 bond at a hearing held this morning. A booking photo is available through the Richland County (Alvin S. Glenn) Detention Center.

This is the fifty-ninth (59th) arrest since the Internet Predator law was passed in April 2004.

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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