



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY McMASTER
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Spartanburg Sheriff Arrests Charleston Man in Internet Predator Sting

Columbia - Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Max Hodo Culp, 44, of 25 Moore Drive in Charleston, was arrested on June 1, 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.

Culp, an employee at a Charleston-based computer consulting company, was arrested on one (1) count of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor (§ 16-15-342), a felony offense punishable to ten (10) years imprisonment.

Arrest warrants allege that on February 23, 2007, Culp solicited sex on the Internet with 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 was executed at Culp's residence on June 1, and resulted in the seizure of several computers, computer hard drives, and computer-related items.

The City of Charleston Police Department, also a member of the ICAC Task Force, assisted with the arrest and search.

Culp was assigned a bond of \$10,000. A booking photo is available through the Spartanburg County Detention Center.

This is the eightieth (80th) 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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