



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY McMASTER
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Mauldin Police Arrest Westminster Man In Internet Predator Sting

Columbia - Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Tony Michael Grogan, 39, of 309 N. Bibb Street in Westminster, was arrested on August 21, 2008, in an Internet predator investigation conducted by the City of Mauldin Police Department.

The Mauldin Police Department is a member of the Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

Grogan 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 Disseminating Harmful Material to a Minor (§ 16-15-385), a felony offense punishable to ten (10) years imprisonment.

Arrest warrants allege that beginning August 7, 2008, Grogan solicited sex in online "chats" from a person he believed to be a thirteen (13) year old girl. In reality, he was communicating with an undercover Mauldin police officer. Grogan is further accused of sending the "girl" nude pictures of himself.

The Oconee County Sheriff's Office (also a member of the Task Force) assisted with the arrest and execution of a search warrant, which resulted in the seizure of a desktop computer, a web camera, and other computer-related items.

An arrest photo is available through the Mauldin Police Department.

This is the one hundred thirty-seventh (137th) 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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