

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY MCMASTER STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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SLED Arrests Columbia Man in Internet Predator Sting

Columbia - Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Mark Cyril Mann, 19, of 404 Castle Ridge Drive in Columbia, was arrested on March 11, 2009, in an undercover Internet sting conducted by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED).

SLED is a member of the Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

Mann was arrested on one (1) count of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor (§16-15-342), a felony offense punishable to ten (10) years imprisonment; one count of Dissemination of Harmful Material to a Minor (§16-15-385), a felony offense punishable to ten (10) years imprisonment and a \$5,000 fine.

Arrest warrants allege that beginning on December 1, 2008, Mann solicited sex on the Internet from an individual he believed to be a twelve (12) year old girl. In reality, he was communicating with an undercover SLED agent.

The Richland County Sheriff's Department, also a member of the Task Force, assisted the case with the execution of a search warrant at Mann's residence, which resulted in the seizure of a laptop computer and a webcam.

Mann is awaiting a bond hearing. A booking photo is available through the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center.

This is the one hundred fiftieth (150th) 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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