



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY McMASTER
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Columbia Man Arrested in Internet Predator Sting

Columbia - Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Aaron Louis Smalls, 21, of 1922 Bentley Court in Columbia, was arrested on October 8, 2009, in an undercover Internet sting conducted by the Attorney General's Office.

The Attorney General directs the state's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

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

An arrest warrant alleges that beginning on May 21, 2009, Smalls solicited sex on the Internet from an individual he believed to be a thirteen (13) year old girl. In reality, he was communicating with an undercover investigator for the Attorney General's Office.

A search warrant was executed on Smalls' residence, and multiple computers and computer-related items were seized. The Richland County Sheriff's Department and the City of Columbia Police Department (both members of the Task Force) assisted with the case.

Smalls was assigned a \$10,000 bond. A booking photo is available through the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center.

This is the one hundred seventy-sixth (176th) 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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