



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY McMASTER
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

For Immediate Release
December 3, 2009

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SLED Arrests Columbia Man in Internet Predator Investigation

Columbia - Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Andrew Steven Beaty, 23, of 318 Catawba Circle in Columbia, South Carolina, was arrested on December 3, 2009, in an Internet Predator case investigated by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED).

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

Beaty 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 (1) count of Dissemination of Obscene Material to a Minor (§16-15-345), a felony offense punishable to ten (10) years imprisonment.

Arrest warrants allege that on or about September 15, 2009, a "cybertip" was sent to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) from an individual in The Woodlands, Harris County, Texas, and stated that someone was soliciting sex from and sending nude pictures to her fifteen (15) year old sister. Based on these communications, it was determined that the person communicating with the minor was located in South Carolina. NCMEC referred the information to the South Carolina Computer Crimes Center. Further investigation led SLED agents to Beaty.

A search warrant was executed at Beaty's residence by SLED and officers of the City of Columbia Police Department (also a member of the Task Force). A number of electronic media items were seized and Beaty was arrested at that time.

A booking photo is available through the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center.

This is the one hundred eighty-third (183rd) 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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