



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY McMASTER
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Lexington Sheriff Arrests Bluffton Man in Internet Predator Sting

Columbia - Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Edward Joseph Kestler, 29, of 84 Baywood Drive in Bluffton, South Carolina, was arrested on October 26, 2009, in an Internet Predator sting conducted by the Lexington County Sheriff's Office.

The Lexington County Sheriff's Office is a member of the Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

Kestler 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 Attempted Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor (§16-15-342), a felony punishable to twenty (20) years imprisonment.

Arrest warrants allege that on October 26, 2009, Kestler solicited sex on the Internet from an individual he believed to be minor girl. In reality, he was soliciting sex from an undercover Lexington County Sheriff's Deputy who was undergoing Internet Predator training at the time from an investigator of the Attorney General's Office. Kestler further arranged to meet the "girl" for sex and a predetermined location in Lexington County. He was arrested upon his arrival at that location.

Kestler was assigned a bond of \$50,000. A booking photo is available through the Lexington County Detention Center.

Kestler's vehicle was searched at the time of his arrest and a laptop computer and thumb drive were impounded. The Town of Chapin Police Department assisted in the case.

This is the one hundred seventy-eighth (178th) 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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