



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

**OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY McMASTER**  
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

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## **Aiken County Man Arrested In Child Solicitation Case**

**Columbia, S.C.** - Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that an Aiken County man was arrested on November 1, 2005, and will be prosecuted by his office for violating the state's Child Internet Predator Law. The law, on the books since April 2004, makes it a crime to stalk, lure or entice a child for abduction or sexual assault.

Errol C. Boudle, 55, of 932 Main Street in Jackson, was arrested by SLED agents on one (1) count of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor, a felony violation of §16-15-342 of the Code of Laws, and punishable to ten (10) years imprisonment and/or a \$5,000 fine.

During a bond hearing held this morning at the Aiken County Detention Center, Judge Tracey Carroll set a \$50,000 surety bond for Boudle.

The case was referred to the Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force by the Springfield Police Department in Ohio, a member of a nationwide network of ICAC organizations.

According to the arrest warrants, Boudle allegedly used the Internet to solicit sex from what he believed to be an underage victim. In reality, he was communicating directly with law enforcement agents.

Boudle was taken into custody by SLED agents, joined by agents from the FBI, the Secret Service, and the Aiken County Sheriff's Department.

The arrest warrants allege that on at least one (1) occasion, Boudle contacted and communicated with an undercover law enforcement agent posing as a fourteen (14) year old girl, for the purpose of or with the intent of persuading, inducing, enticing, or coercing the child to engage or participate in a sexual activity, or a violent crime (as defined by S.C. Code), or with the intent to perform a sexual activity in the presence of the child, or person reasonably believed to be a child under the age of eighteen (18).

A centerpiece of his administration, McMaster will now prosecute Boudle under the law he pushed through the General Assembly with the help of the bill's sponsor, Representative Murrell Smith of Sumter.

This case was developed by the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC), using the S.C. Computer Crimes Center, a partnership of SLED, the Secret Service, and the FBI. ICAC is operated by the Attorney General's Office, and used to prosecute child sexual exploitation, pornography, and now cyber enticement cases.

Attorney General McMaster stressed that all defendants are presumed innocent until and unless they are proven guilty in a court of law.

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