



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY McMASTER  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

For Immediate Release  
February 1, 2007

Contact: Mark Plowden  
803-734-3670  
[mplowden@ag.state.sc.us](mailto:mplowden@ag.state.sc.us)

## **Anderson Police Arrest Greer Man In Internet Predator Sting**

**Columbia** - Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that James Joseph Matthews, 35, of 500 Meadow Hill Way in Greer, was arrested on January 31, 2007, in an undercover Internet sting conducted by the City of Anderson Police Department.

Matthews is a former Greenville County Sheriff's Deputy.

The City of Anderson Police Department is a member of the Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

Matthews 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 (§ 16-3-655(B)), a felony offense punishable to twenty (20) years imprisonment.

Arrest warrants allege that Matthews began online "chats" on January 30, 2007, with a person he believed to be a twelve (12) year old girl. In reality, he was communicating with an undercover Anderson Police Officer. Matthews further arranged to meet the "girl" for sex at a predetermined location in Anderson. He was arrested upon his arrival at that location at approximately 10:50 p.m. on January 31.

A search warrant was executed at Matthews' residence on January 31, and resulted in the seizure of a computer and computer-related items. Matthews' two (2) year old son was found alone in the home, and was taken into emergency protective custody. The City of Greer Police Department assisted with the search and took emergency custody of the child.

A bond hearing is scheduled for February 2, at 8:00 a.m. A booking photo is available through the Anderson Detention Center.

This is the fifty-fifth (55<sup>th</sup>) arrest since the Internet Predator law was passed in April 2004.

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.

###