



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY MCMASTER
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

For Immediate Release
October 20, 2004

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Camden Man Indicted For Sexual Exploitation Of A Child

Man Accused of Soliciting, Exchanging Child Porn on the Internet

Columbia, S.C. – Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today the State Grand Jury has indicted Gary Stephen Estep, 43, of 710 Ivy Bush Lane in Camden, on four (4) counts of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor.

The first three (3) counts are Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, Second Degree, a felony violation of §16-15-405(A)(2) of the Code of Laws, and punishable to five (5) years imprisonment with a minimum sentence required of two (2) years imprisonment. The fourth (4th) count is Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, Third Degree, a felony violation of §16-15-410(A) of the Code of Laws, and punishable to five (5) years imprisonment.

The indictments allege that Estep, while living and working in Kershaw County, during the period March through August 2004, and knowing the content of the material, did distribute and/or transport, and/or exhibit, and/or receive, and/or sell, and/or purchase, and/or exchange, and/or solicit material that contained a visual representation of a minor engaged in sexual activity.

Estep was arrested on August 18, 2004, and a bond hearing was conducted in Magistrate's Court. Estep was given a bond of \$100,000, and ordered to have no contact with Camden Middle and High Schools, due to his association with the Camden Middle School band booster club. He was further ordered not to leave the state. Estep did not pay the bond, and is currently being held at the Kershaw County jail.

Estep will have a new bond hearing before Judge Thomas G. Cooper, Jr. at noon on Wednesday, October 27, Richland County Courthouse, room 3a. Any changes to the original bond are at the judge's discretion.

This case was investigated by the State Law Enforcement Division, Kershaw County Sheriff's Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Secret Service, the Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, and will be prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office.

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

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