



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY MCMASTER  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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## **Charleston Man Arrested By AG's Internet Predator Task Force**

*City Of Charleston Police Join The Statewide Effort To Protect  
Children From Sexual Predators*

**Columbia, S.C.** - Attorney General Henry McMaster has announced the addition of another local law enforcement agency to a state task force dedicated to catching sexual predators online before they can abduct or assault a child.

The City of Charleston Police Department is now a partner in the Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, and an arrest has already been made.

Elliot Ashley Kohn, 26, of 3 Tudor Place in Charleston, was arrested on November 30, 2005, on charges of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor (§ 16-15-342), a felony offense punishable to ten (10) years imprisonment and Attempted Criminal Sexual Conduct With a Minor (§ 16-3-655(a)), a felony offense punishable to twenty (20) years imprisonment.

According to arrest warrants, on November 28, 2005, Kohn began chatting online with a person he believed to be a fourteen (14) year old girl. In reality, he was soliciting sex from an officer of the Charleston Police Department. The next day, Kohn arranged a meeting with the "girl" for Wednesday, November 30. Kohn was arrested and taken into custody on November 30 when he arrived at the designated meeting location.

A bond hearing was held today at the Charleston County Detention Center. Judge Linda Lombard set a surety bond of \$100,000 for Kohn. A trial date has not been set.

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

On October 1, 2005, the Charleston City Police Department joined the Westminster Police Department, the York County Sheriff's Department, the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Department, the City of Aiken Department of Public Safety, the Aiken County Sheriff's Department, and the Florence County Sheriff's Department on the statewide task force.

“Using the new Internet predator law, our undercover stings have been very successful in targeting these monsters before they can target our children,” said McMaster. “The addition of the Charleston Police Department adds more troops to the fight and will hopefully act as a strong deterrent to would be predators.”

The South Carolina Task Force is part of a federal Department of Justice ICAC network dedicated to assisting state and local law enforcement agencies’ efforts to combat child cyber enticement and child exploitation. Locally, it is operated by the Attorney General’s Office in partnership with the State Law Enforcement Division and the South Carolina Computer Crimes Center.

Using the Internet predator law he pushed through the General Assembly last year, McMaster and the ICAC Task Force have aggressively investigated and prosecuted child cyber enticement cases. The law makes it a crime to stalk, lure or entice a child for abduction or sexual assault.

McMaster is now expanding the ICAC task force partnership to include local law enforcement agencies, with the Attorney General’s Office providing assistance with federal ICAC funding, training and resources. In return, local law enforcement agencies will conduct proactive undercover Internet predator sting operations. As part of the agreement, the Attorney General’s Office will prosecute the Internet predator cases with the local Solicitor prosecuting other child exploitation crimes.

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