

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY MCMASTER STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

For Immediate Release April 27, 2006

Contact: Mark Plowden

803-734-3670 mplowden@ag.state.sc.us

Charleston Man Arrested In Online Predator Sting

Columbia, S.C. – Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Jeremy Allen LeFew, 25, of 1054 Anna Knap Boulevard, Apt. A-26, in Mt. Pleasant, was arrested on Wednesday, April 26, 2006, 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(2)), which carries a maximum penalty of twenty (20) years imprisonment.

Arrest warrants allege that on or about April 24 and 25, 2006, LeFew initiated conversations on the Internet in which he solicited sex from a person he believed to be a fourteen-year-old girl. In reality, he was communicating with an undercover officer of the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED). On April 26, 2006, LeFew arranged a meeting with the "girl," and traveled from Charleston to Lexington County for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity. When LeFew arrived at the predetermined location, he was arrested by SLED agents.

A bond hearing for LeFew will be held at 3:00 p.m. today at the Lexington County Detention Center.

LeFew was a member of the United States Navy, and officers of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service participated in this undercover sting. The Lexington County Sheriff's Department, United States Secret Service, and Federal Bureau of Investigation also assisted in the operation.

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