



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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

For Immediate Release  
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## **Florence Man Arrested in Child Pornography Case**

**Columbia, S.C.** – Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Eric Wayne Stone, 35, of 700 Coventry Lane, Apt. D, in Florence, was arrested on November 21, 2006, by the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) on child pornography charges.

SLED is a member of the Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

Stone is an officer with the City of Florence Police Department.

Stone is charged with Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, Second Degree (§16-15-405), a felony offense punishable by two (2) to ten (10) years imprisonment, and Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, Third Degree (§16-15-410), a felony offense punishable by up to ten (10) years imprisonment.

According to the arrest warrants, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) received a tip from Internet service provider Yahoo that an individual had uploaded images containing child pornography to a photos folder on a Yahoo server. Investigation led officers to Stone.

Officers of SLED, the Florence County Sheriff's Office (also an ICAC Task Force member), and the U.S. Secret Service, executed a search warrant at Stone's residence. Images of children engaged in sexual activity were found downloaded on Stone's computer.

A bond hearing is expected tomorrow at the Florence County Detention Center.

A booking photo may be obtained from the Florence County Detention Center.

The Attorney General's Office will prosecute the case.

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

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