



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY McMASTER
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Husband and Wife Plead Guilty To Child Pornography Charges

Columbia, S.C. – Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Ryan Lavelly (21) and Vivien Lea Lavelly (23), formerly of 49A Knuston Street in Goose Creek, pleaded guilty on May 9, 2006, to charges of distribution and possession of child pornography.

Ryan Lavelly pleaded guilty to three (3) counts of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor – Second Degree (§16-15-405), a felony offense punishable to ten (10) years imprisonment (minimum of two (2)). He also pleaded guilty to one (1) count of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor – Third Degree (§16-15-410), a felony offense punishable to ten (10) years imprisonment.

Vivien Lavelly pleaded guilty to one (1) count of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor – Third Degree (§16-15-410), a felony offense punishable to ten (10) years imprisonment.

On or about November 28, 2004, Ryan and Vivien Lavelly created and began operating a file server on the Internet, which was discovered by authorities in Pennsylvania to distribute child pornography. The case was forwarded to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) and investigated at the state's Computer Crimes Center.

A search warrant was executed at the Lavelly residence on January 4, 2005. The search of computers found in the home produced hundreds of video and picture files depicting the sexual assault of children. Further examination of the seized computers revealed that these images of child sexual assault had been distributed to numerous subscribers worldwide.

Judge Roger Young, presiding over the General Sessions Court of Berkeley County, sentenced Ryan Lavelly to six (6) years imprisonment suspended to two (2) years incarceration and five (5) years probation upon release for each of the three (3) counts of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor – Second Degree. On the one (1) count of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor – Third Degree, Ryan Lavelly was sentenced to six (6) years imprisonment suspended to five (5) years probation. All sentences are to run concurrently.

Judge Young sentenced Vivien Lavelly to three (3) years imprisonment suspended to three (3) years probation on one (1) count of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor – Third Degree.

Judge Young further ordered that special conditions of probation for both husband and wife will include: no Internet access allowed in the home, any computers seized in the case will be forfeited to law enforcement, mandatory mental health counseling, and no contact allowed with any child under the age of eighteen (18) years.

This case was investigated by the State Law Enforcement Division and prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office.

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