Kershaw Co. Sheriff Joins McMaster’s Internet Predator Task Force

Twelve Law Enforcement Agencies Now Members In Statewide Online Sting Effort

Columbia, S.C. - Attorney General Henry McMaster has announced the addition of the Kershaw County Sheriff’s Department to a state task force dedicated to catching sexual predators online before they can abduct or assault a child. Twelve law enforcement agencies are now participating in the statewide task force designed to locate and arrest online predators.

At a news conference held at the Kershaw County Sheriff’s Department, McMaster announced that the agency is now a partner in the Attorney General’s Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

Kershaw County Sheriff Steve McCaskill spoke in support of the expanding effort to protect the state’s children from sexual predators on the Internet.

Kershaw County joins the Lexington County Sheriff’s Department, the Laurens County Sheriff’s Office, the City of Clinton Department of Public Safety, the Charleston City Police Department, 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, the Florence County Sheriff’s Department, and the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) on the statewide task force.

“But 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 Kershaw County Sheriff’s Department adds more troops to the fight and should act as a strong deterrent to would be predators. In South Carolina, these predators have become the prey.”

Kershaw County Sheriff Steve McCaskill said the Sheriff's Department is pleased to work in partnership with Attorney General Henry McMaster to catch sexual predators.
“We know that sexual predators who are seeking to prey on children who live in Kershaw County,” McCaskill said. “We want to place predators on notice that Kershaw County Deputies will be on the Internet and posing as children to find predators who intend to harm children in Kershaw County."

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 in 2004, 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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