



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY McMASTER
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Lexington Man Arrested In Internet Predator Sting

Columbia, S.C. – Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that James Matthew Scaffee, 36, of 101 Pepper Harrow Lane, in Lexington, was arrested on June 19, 2006, in an undercover sting conducted by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED).

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

Scaffee was arrested on two (2) counts of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor (§ 16-15-342), a felony offense punishable to ten (10) years imprisonment and one (1) count of Attempted Criminal Sexual Conduct With a Minor (§ 16-3-655(B)), a felony offense punishable to twenty (20) years imprisonment.

Arrest warrants allege that Scaffee solicited sex on the morning of June 19, 2006, from a person he believed to be a fourteen (14) year old girl. In reality, he was seeking sex from an undercover SLED agent. Scaffee further arranged to meet the "girl" for sex at a predetermined location in the Columbia area the same afternoon. He was arrested upon his arrival at that location.

The second warrant for Criminal Solicitation of a Minor stems from a similar online conversation with an undercover SLED agent that took place on July 6, 2005. In that incident, Scaffee solicited sex from a person he believed to be a thirteen (13) year old girl.

A search warrant was executed at Scaffee's residence, and resulted in the seizure of a computer and computer related equipment.

A bond hearing was held on Tuesday, June 20, at the Lexington County Detention Center before Judge Scott D. Whittle. Scaffee's bond was set at \$100,000.

The case will be prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office.

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

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