

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY MCMASTER STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Spartanburg Sheriff Arrests Orangeburg County Man In Internet Predator Sting

Columbia - Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Frank Albert Schoonover, II, 27, of 732 Trecer Road in Cope, was arrested on November 30, 2006, in an undercover Internet sting conducted by the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office.

The Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office is a member of the Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

Schoonover was arrested on two (2) counts of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor (§ 16-15-342), a felony offense punishable to ten (10) years imprisonment on each count.

Arrest warrants allege that Schoonover began soliciting sex on June 18, 2006, from a person he believed to be a twelve (12) year old girl. In reality, he was communicating with an undercover Spartanburg County Sheriff's Deputy.

A search warrant was executed at Schoonover's residence on November 30 with the assistance of the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Department. A search warrant was also executed at Schoonover's parents' residence by the Bamberg County Sheriff's Office. The searches resulted in the seizure of a computer, and other computer-related equipment.

Schoonover's bond was set at \$20,000.

This is the forty-eighth (48th) arrest since the Internet Predator law was passed in April 2004.

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.