

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY MCMASTER STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

For Immediate Release May 23, 2006

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Spartanburg Sheriff Arrests Third Suspected Sex Predator

Columbia, S.C. – Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Mark Eugene McDaniel, 36, of 3001 Union Highway in Gaffney, was arrested on May 22, 2006, by deputies of the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office for Criminal Solicitation of a Minor (§16-15-342), a felony offense punishable to ten (10) years imprisonment.

The Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office is a member of the Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. This is the third such arrest for Spartanburg County in the past two (2) weeks.

According to the arrest warrant, McDaniel began soliciting sex on April 14, 2006, from a person he believed to be a thirteen (13) year old girl. In reality, he was soliciting sex from a Spartanburg County Sheriff's Deputy.

Spartanburg and Cherokee County Sheriff's Deputies executed a search warrant at McDaniel's residence. The search resulted in the seizure of a computer and various computer-related items, including a webcam.

McDaniel was transported and processed into the Spartanburg County Detention Center. A bond hearing is scheduled at that location for 2:00 p.m. today.

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 court of law.