

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY MCMASTER STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

For Immediate Release July 26, 2006

Contact: Mark Plowden 803-734-3670

mplowden@ag.state.sc.us

Spartanburg Sheriff Arrests Goose Creek Man In Internet Predator Sting

Columbia, S.C. – Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Gregory Mark Swant, 38, of 1408 Coopers Hawk Drive in Goose Creek, was arrested on July 28, 2006, by deputies of the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office 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.

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

According to arrest warrants, Swant began soliciting sex on June 1, 2006, from a person he believed to be a fourteen (14) year old girl. In reality, he was soliciting sex from a Spartanburg County Sheriff's Deputy.

The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Department of Public Safety assisted in a search and seizure of computer equipment on university property. Swant is employed by the university.

The Berkeley County Sheriff's Office and the City of Hanahan Police Department assisted in executing a search warrant at Swant's residence today. The full results of that search are not yet known.

Swant will be transported and processed into the Spartanburg County Detention Center. A bond hearing will be scheduled for tomorrow at that location.

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.