



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY McMASTER
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Spartanburg Sheriff Arrests Columbia Man In Internet Predator Sting

Columbia - Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that John David Strait, III, 28, of 162 Rice Terrace Drive in Columbia, was arrested on October 16, 2006, in an undercover Internet sting conducted by the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office.

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

Strait was arrested on one (1) count 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 Strait began soliciting sex on October 9, 2006, from a person he believed to be a thirteen (13) year old girl. In reality, he was seeking sex from an undercover Spartanburg County Sheriff's Deputy. Strait further arranged to meet the "girl" for sex at a predetermined location in Spartanburg County. He was arrested upon his arrival at that location the same day.

The Richland County Sheriff's Department assisted the case by executing a search warrant at Strait's residence on October 17. A computer and computer-related items were seized.

A bond hearing is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. today at the Spartanburg County Detention Center.

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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