



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY McMASTER
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

For Immediate Release
October 25, 2006

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Spartanburg Sheriff Arrests Greenville Man In Internet Predator Sting

Columbia - Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that William Heath Bishop, 31, of 1011 West Butler Road in Greenville, was arrested on October 23, 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.

Bishop 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 Bishop began online "chats" on October 19, 2006, with a person he believed to be a thirteen (13) year old boy, offering the child money to put him in contact with a girl of the same age. In reality, he was communicating with an undercover Spartanburg County Sheriff's Deputy.

The deputy offered Bishop the persona of a thirteen (13) year old "girl," also set up by the Sheriff's Office. Bishop then began soliciting sex from this "girl." Bishop further arranged to meet the "girl" for sex at a predetermined location in Spartanburg County. He was arrested upon his arrival at that location on October 23.

The Greenville County Sheriff's Office assisted the case by executing a search warrant at Bishop's residence on October 23. A computer and computer-related items were seized.

Bishop's bond was set at \$75,000.

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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