

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY MCMASTER STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Union Man Arrested By Internet Predator Task Force

Columbia, S.C. – Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Dennis Jeremiah Williams, 25, of 132 Talley Drive in Union, was arrested by the Town of Westminster Police Department on Friday, March 24, 2006, on charges of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor (§ 16-15-342), a felony offense punishable to ten (10) years imprisonment and Attempted Criminal Sexual Conduct With a Minor (§ 16-3-655(a)), a felony offense punishable to twenty (20) years imprisonment.

Arrest warrants allege that beginning on or about January 4, 2006, Williams solicited sexual activity via the Internet from an individual whom he believed to be a fourteen (14) year old girl. In reality, he was soliciting sex from an undercover agent of the Westminster Police Department. Williams was arrested late Friday night when he traveled to Westminster with the intention of having sex with the child.

On Saturday, March 25, a search warrant was executed at Williams' residence, where computer equipment and various computer-related items were seized.

Oconee County Magistrate Danny Singleton set a surety bond of \$35,000 for Williams.

A trial date has not been set.

This arrest is the third for the small town of Westminster since January. A fourth individual, <u>David Charles Brown</u>, 55, of Spartanburg is a fugitive on warrants from the Westminster Police. Brown is wanted on charges of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor and Attempted Criminal Sexual Conduct With a Minor. To date, Spartanburg area authorities have been unable to locate Brown.

McMaster stressed that all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until they are proven guilty in a court of law.