



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY MCMASTER
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Spartanburg Sheriff Arrests Newberry Man in Internet Predator Sting

Columbia - Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Joey Edward Nelson, 52, of 771 Green Meadow Drive in Newberry, was arrested on July 2, 2008, in an undercover Internet sting conducted by the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office.

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

Nelson was arrested 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.

Arrest warrants allege that beginning on March 31, 2008, Nelson began soliciting sex on the Internet from an individual he believed to be a twelve (12) year old girl. In reality, he was communicating with undercover Spartanburg County Sheriff's Deputies.

A search warrant executed at Nelson's residence resulted in the seizure of two (2) desktop computers, two (2) webcams, and various computer related items.

The Newberry County Sheriff's Office assisted with the arrest and search.

A booking photo is available through the Spartanburg County Detention Center.

This is the one hundred twenty-eighth (128th) arrest for the Task Force.

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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