



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY McMASTER  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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## **Columbia Man Arrested in Child Pornography Case**

**Columbia** - Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Harold Ruben Ayton, 30, a homeless resident of Columbia, South Carolina, was arrested on June 28, 2010, by the City of Columbia Police Department on charges of child pornography.

The Columbia Police Department is a member of the Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

Ayton, a registered sex offender, is currently charged with one (1) count of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor (§16-15-410), 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, a felony offense punishable to ten (10) years imprisonment, and two (2) counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor (§16-3-655(b)), a felony offense punishable to twenty (20) years imprisonment on each count.

Ayton is charged with possessing digital images on his cell phone depicting him and children engaged in sex acts. Ayton's cell phone was seized and taken to the Attorney General's Office for forensic examination. Files containing the pornographic images were found on that device.

The Town of Newberry Police Department assisted in the case. The matter is an ongoing investigation, and additional charges may be filed.

Ayton was assigned a \$200,000 bond. [A booking photo is available through the City of Columbia Police Department.](#)

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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