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NEWS RELEASE

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MERIDIAN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ATTEMPTED SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

Timothy Shawn Anderson, 30, of Meridian, Idaho, pled guilty today in United States District Court in Boise to Attempted Sexual Exploitation of Children, the U. S. Attorney's Office announced.

This prosecution arose as the result of an ongoing Internet child exploitation investigation, conducted by the Ada County Sheriff's Department. In late September 2009, Anderson made contact over the Internet, via an Idaho romance chat room, with a person who he believed to be a 15-year-old girl, but who was actually an Ada County Sheriff's detective. Over the next five weeks, the online chats included dialogue that was explicitly sexual in nature. Anderson was arrested when he showed up to meet the purported girl. He had a digital camera and memory cards with him. Anderson admitted that he had intended to take pictures of the girl in various sexual poses. A search of Anderson's home computers revealed child pornography images and video files.

The federal charge carries a mandatory minimum prison sentence of 15 years imprisonment, without parole, and a maximum sentence of 30 years, a fine of up to \$250,000, and supervised release for at least five years, up to life.

Sentencing is scheduled for July 26, 2010, at 1:00 PM, before U.S. District Judge Edward J. Lodge in Boise.

U.S. Attorney Tom Moss commended the diligent work of the Ada County Sheriff's Department and members of Idaho's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force for their

investigative efforts. “Through their efforts, we can prevent actual crimes against real children before they occur.”

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