

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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Public Safety Investigation Targets Child Pornography, *ABI's Internet Crimes Against Children Unit Arrests Madison Man*

MONTGOMERY — A 39-year-old Alabama resident was arrested on child pornography charges Thursday as the result of an investigation by the Department of Public Safety's ABI Division. Jeffrey D. Finch of Madison was arrested Thursday morning in Virginia Beach, Va., by officers of the Virginia State Police. Finch was charged with one count of possession of child pornography and next week faces extradition to Alabama.

The investigation that led to Finch's arrest began in March, when DPS received a cybertip through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The cybertip was investigated by the ABI's Internet Crimes Against Children section, created in 2000 with funding assistance from the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention. As a result, ABI investigators served a search warrant on Finch's residence in Madison, Ala., May 11, where they seized a computer and a large quantity of child pornography.

Investigators attempted to serve an arrest warrant on Finch May 31 in Madison and found he had left the area. They developed information that indicated Finch had gone to Virginia in an attempt to contact a former girlfriend and her 4-year-old daughter. Investigators were able to pinpoint Finch's whereabouts and enlisted the assistance of the Virginia State Police in making the arrest Thursday.

Possession of child pornography is a Class C felony, punishable by a sentence of up to 10 years in prison.

According to the Department of Public Safety, the investigation is continuing.

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