

**For Immediate Release
June 24, 2005**

Marshall County Man Arrested for Abuse, Joint Investigation Continuing

A 47-year-old Marshall County man was arrested Wednesday in connection with the sexual abuse of a 10-year-old girl in an ongoing investigation conducted by Public Safety's Alabama Bureau of Investigation, the FBI, the Marshall County District Attorney's Office, and the Marshall County Department of Human Resources.

Agents arrested Herman May of Horton on charges of first-degree sodomy, first-degree sexual abuse and child abuse. Arrested at his home Wednesday, May was jailed in Marshall County, with bond set Thursday at \$250,000. The 10-year-old child at the residence was placed in the care of DHR. Seized for forensic evaluation at the time of the arrest were May's home computer and other digital media.

The investigation was initiated last month when the FBI's office in Mobile developed information that identified May in connection with online sexual solicitation of children. The FBI began the investigation in conjunction with ABI's Internet Crimes Against Children section, which conducts investigative activities into the use of computers to victimize children.

First-degree sodomy is a Class A felony, punishable by a sentence of up to life in prison. Child abuse and first-degree sexual abuse are Class C felonies, punishable by up to 10 years in prison on each count.

Investigators ask that individuals with information that may be relevant to this continuing investigation contact the Marshall County District Attorney's Office, 256-582-8113; or Alabama's Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 1-800-228-7688.

Contact: Alabama Department of Public Safety
334-242-4445