



NEWS RELEASE

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes
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PERSON ARRESTED FOR ATTEMPTING SEXUALLY EXPLICIT "CHATS" WITH CHILDREN

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY: November 13, 2009

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes, Esq., Passaic County Sheriff Jerry Speziale, and Morris County Prosecutor Robert A. Bianchi, Esq. announce the arrest of 41 year-old Wall Township, New Jersey resident, Joseph Ambrosio.

Mr. Ambrosio, who is employed as an Assistant Comptroller for Jersey City, was charged with one count of Attempted Sexual Assault, a crime of the second degree; six counts of Attempted Endangering the Welfare of a Child, crimes of the third degree, and one count of Attempted Criminal Sexual Contact, a crime of the fourth degree.

The Attempted Sexual Assault charge carries a maximum sentence of up to 10 years in the New Jersey State Prison. The Endangering the Welfare of a Child charges each carry a maximum sentence of up to five years in the New Jersey State Prison. The Attempted Criminal Sexual Contact charge carries a maximum sentence of up to 18 months in New Jersey State Prison.

The joint investigation was conducted by the Passaic County Sheriff's Department, Passaic County Prosecutor's Office, Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, and the Morris County Prosecutor's Office.

The Burlington County Prosecutor's Office, Hudson County Prosecutor's Office, Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, Bayonne Police Department and Jersey City Police Department provided assistance during this investigation.

Investigators from the various law enforcement agencies, acting in an undercover capacity, posed as female children in an online chat room. Joseph Ambrosio engaged the female "children" in sexually explicit chats.

Mr. Ambrosio was arrested on November 13, 2009 at 7:10 a.m. near his residence located in Wall Township. Mr. Ambrosio will be transported to the Passaic County Jail in Paterson, New Jersey. At that time a Superior Court Judge will set bail.

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes, Esq., Passaic County Sheriff Jerry Speziale and Morris County Prosecutor Robert A. Bianchi, Esq. jointly stated:

"This arrest is an example of how interagency collaboration throughout the state can have positive impact upon law enforcement. We are committed and unified in our mission to protect our youth and to vigorously investigate and prosecute those persons who attempt to cause them harm."

Passaic County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Joseph A. Del Russo is prosecuting the case.

A criminal complaint is merely an accusation. Despite this accusation, the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.