



# NEWS RELEASE

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## EGG HARBOR MAN CONVICTED OF ATTEMPTED SEXUAL ASSAULT

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PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

November 16, 2010

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes has announced that on November 5, 2010 a jury returned a guilty verdict in the prosecution of Aengus Downey. The case was tried before the Honorable Greta Gooden Brown, J.S.C. Mr. Downey was convicted of Attempted Sexual Assault-a crime of the second degree punishable by a maximum of ten years in State prison, and Attempted Endangering the Welfare of a Child-a crime of the third degree punishable by a maximum of five years in State prison. Following an investigation by the Passaic County Sheriff's Department, Downey, age 38 of Egg Harbor, New Jersey was arrested on February 26, 2009 by members of that department together with members of the Egg Harbor Township Police Department. The investigation began during December 2008 when Downey, via the internet, contacted a Sheriff's officer who was working in an undercover capacity posing as a 12 year old female to investigate individuals who were contacting minors for the purpose of engaging in sexual relations. Downey sent pornographic pictures to what he believed was a 12 year old girl and continued to communicate with her online until his arrest. Senior Assistant Prosecutor Justine Niccollai was the trial attorney who led the prosecution of this matter. Sentencing is

currently scheduled for December 10, 2010 before Judge Gooden Brown. After serving his sentence, Mr. Downey is subject to deportation to his native country of Ireland, parole supervision for life and to the provisions of Megan's Law while in the United States.

Any inquiries may be directed to Senior Assistant Prosecutor Justine Niccollai at (973) 881-4886 or via e-mail at [JNiccollai@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:JNiccollai@passaiccountynj.org).