



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

Press Release

Date: February 9, 2004

**ICE AGENTS ARREST 41-YEAR-OLD FLORIDA MAN WHO WAS TRAVELING TO
NEW JERSEY TO ENGAGE IN SEX WITH A 13-YEAR-OLD GIRL
-- Agents find stun gun, sex devices, and Viagra in man's hotel room --**

NEWARK, New Jersey – U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents from the Department of Homeland Security have arrested Dennis P. DelPriore, age 41, of Daytona Beach, FL, for traveling across state lines to engage a thirteen-year-old girl in sexual acts.

Last week, the Newark office of ICE Child Exploitation Group received information that DelPriore was coming to New Jersey to have sex with a minor. Acting on this information, ICE immediately activated agents in several states to prevent the crime from occurring. DelPriore was surveilled by ICE Special Agents in Florida as he traveled to Orlando Airport to board a flight to New York on February 5. ICE agents watched DelPriore disembark the aircraft in New York and travel to Burlington County, New Jersey the same day.

A criminal complaint sworn in U.S. District Court in Newark on Saturday, February 7, alleges that DelPriore had met the thirteen-year-old on an Internet chat room and traveled to New Jersey from Florida for the purpose of having sexual relations with the girl. Also, DelPriore had planned on meeting the girl on Friday night, February 6. Earlier on Friday, ICE agents observed DelPriore following several school buses in Hainesport, NJ, including the school bus on which his intended victim was traveling from school to her home.

DelPriore was arrested in his hotel room in Mt. Laurel, NJ, on Friday evening at approximately 6:00 P.M. ICE agents found in DelPriore's possession a stun gun, sex toys, several bottles of alcohol, and a bottle of Viagra.

Special Agents from the ICE office in Cocoa Beach, Florida executed a federal criminal search warrant on DelPriore's residence on Saturday. Information and evidence taken from that warrant is currently being analyzed to determine if there are other victims or potential witnesses. The parents of the minor girl were contacted and the family was referred to a child advocacy specialist.

The charge against DelPriore, traveling across state lines for the purpose of engaging in sexual acts with a minor, has a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison and up to \$250,000 fine.

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"This case demonstrates how quick coordination by ICE agents in New York, Florida, and New Jersey, prevented the intended sexual assault of a minor. ICE will continue to identify and arrest sexual predators who prey upon our children," said Newark ICE Special Agent-in-Charge John P. Torres. "The Internet and its perceived anonymity will no longer provide a safe harbor for criminals to conduct their business."

Mr. Delpriore is scheduled to make an initial appearance today in federal court in Camden, New Jersey.

This arrest is part of ICE's ongoing Operation Predator, a Department of Homeland Security initiative to protect children worldwide from pornographers, child prostitution rings, Internet predators, alien smugglers, human traffickers, and other predatory criminals. Operation Predator targets U.S. citizens suspected of child sex crimes and non-citizen sex offenders whose crimes make them subject to removal from the United States.

Since Operation Predator was launched July 9, 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than **1,900** child predators and sex offenders throughout the nation. More information about Operation Predator is available on the Web at http://www.ice.gov/graphics/enforce/ops/predator_content.htm.

ICE has a toll-free number for the public to provide leads to its enforcement team on any violations, including tips about child pornography, child sex offenders, and others preying on children. The toll-free number (1-866-DHS-2ICE) is monitored 24 hours a day by officers at the ICE Law Enforcement Support Center.

ICE

ICE, the primary investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security, was established to bring a unified focus to the enforcement of U.S. immigration and customs laws, with the principal goal of preventing violations by terrorists and other criminals who threaten the nation's security.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

v.

DENNIS P. DELPRIORE

Mag. No. 04-

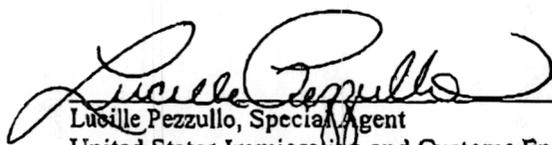
I, Lucille Pezzullo, being duly sworn, state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

On or about February 5, 2004, in Burlington County, New Jersey, and elsewhere, defendant DENNIS P. DELPRIORE did knowingly and willfully travel in interstate commerce for the purpose of engaging in a sexual act as defined in section 2246 with a person under 18 years of age that would be in violation of chapter 109A if the act occurred in the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2423(b) and 2.

I further state that I am a Special Agent with the Department of Homeland Security, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and that this complaint is based on the following facts:

SEE ATTACHMENT A

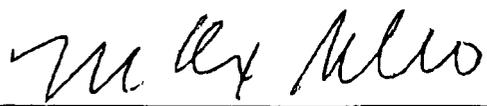
continued on the attached page and made a part hereof.



Lucille Pezzullo, Special Agent
United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence,
on February 7, 2004, in Essex County, New Jersey

HONORABLE MADELINE COX ARLEO
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE



Signature of Judicial Officer *Madeline Cox Arleo, USMJ*

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ATTACHMENT A

I, Lucille Pezzullo, a Special Agent with the Department of Homeland Security, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, having conducted and participated in this investigation and having discussed this matter with other law enforcement officers who have also conducted and participated in this investigation, have knowledge of the following facts:

1. On or about February 5, 2004, Dennis P. DelPriore boarded Delta Airlines Flight 2490 in Orlando, Florida, after which agents observed him debark from the flight at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York City at approximately 9:24 a.m. DelPriore proceeded by taxi to the Enterprise Rental Car location in East Elmhurst, Queens by Laguardia Airport. Agents subsequently observed DelPriore leaving the Enterprise Rental Car lot in a grey Dodge Intrepid, New Jersey license plate NRR61W.
2. Agents tracked the Dodge Intrepid driven by DelPriore across the 59th Street Bridge into Manhattan and then through the Lincoln Tunnel into New Jersey. He was then followed down the New Jersey Turnpike until he left the Turnpike via Exit 5. He was then trailed to Hainesport, the town in southern New Jersey where a 13-year old girl with whom DelPriore wished to have sexual relations resided. He then doubled back to return to the AmeriSuites Hotel located at 8000 Crawford Place, Mt. Laurel, New Jersey.
3. On February 6, 2004, agents observed DelPriore following several school buses in Hainesport, New Jersey, including the school bus on which the 13-year old girl was transported home from her school. Subsequently, DelPriore was observed entering a Chili's Restaurant in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey at approximately 5:00 p.m. Two undercover agents sat next to DelPriore who had positioned himself at the bar. The agents engaged DelPriore in a conversation during which DelPriore stated the following, in substance and in part. DelPriore related that he intended to meet a girl that night, but that she had told him that she could not meet him because her parents would not let her go out when it was raining. When one of the agents asked the age of the girl whom DelPriore intended to meet that night, he informed them that she was thirteen years of age. DelPriore informed the agents that the girl's parents were unaware of his existence. He also related that he had traveled to New Jersey to visit her in December of 2003, but that she had not been allowed out by her father at that time. Subsequently, DelPriore told the agents that he had previously had sex with a 14-year old girl in 1999. He also clarified that the only reason he had traveled to New Jersey on this occasion was to have sex with the 13-year old girl from Hainesport. During this conversation, DelPriore also spoke with the 13-year old girl on his cell phone.
4. On or about February 6, 2004, at approximately 6:00 p.m., defendant DelPriore was arrested in his hotel room at the AmeriSuites Hotel in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey.

DelPriore was interviewed by law enforcement officers and stated the following, in substance and in part. DelPriore related that he had met the 13-year old girl via an on-line chat room, and provided agents with the screen name he had used. He also confirmed that he had flown from Orlando, Florida the previous day, and that the purpose of his visit to New Jersey was to have sex with the 13-year old girl. He related that he had purchased a cellular phone with a local phone number for the 13-year old girl to contact him while he was in New Jersey. DelPriore stated that he had wanted to meet the 13-year old girl that day but that she had told him that she could not meet him because it was raining. DelPriore also related that he had previously traveled from Florida to Hainesport, New Jersey in December of 2003 to see the 13-year old girl, but that she had been unable to meet him at that time. He indicated that he intended to have sex with her on this trip had she voluntarily consented. DelPriore claimed that he would not have forcibly raped her, and claimed that he intended to give the stun gun that was in his possession to the 13-year old girl for her protection. Agents also found in DelPriore's possession various sex toys, a bottle of Viagra and several bottles of alcohol.