



ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Nashville Field Division

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ARMED ALABAMA CHILD PORNOGRAPHER, CONVICTED FELON SENTENCED TO THREE LIFE TERMS IN PRISON

MOBILE, Ala.— Special Agent in Charge James Cavanaugh of the Nashville Field Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); U.S. Attorney Deborah Rhodes for the Southern District of Alabama today announced that Stephen Harmon Richardson, 45 of Thomasville, Ala., was sentenced to three life terms in federal prison for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearms in violation of Title 18 U.S. Code, Section 922(g)(1).

Richardson was sentenced after pleading guilty to federal firearms charges which stemmed from a joint investigation between ATF and the Thomasville Police Department for Richardson being in possession of firearms while engaged in production and possession of child pornography. Richardson was previously convicted of being a felon in possession of firearms in Effingham County Superior Court in Georgia in July 2004 and sentenced to five years. He was also previously convicted of other felonies which qualified him for an enhanced sentence under the federal guidelines. Under federal law convicted felons are prohibited from possessing firearm and ammunition. There is no parole in the federal prison system. Richardson pleaded guilty to the federal firearm charges in March 2006.

According to case background, Richardson was identified by the Thomasville Police Department as manufacturing child pornography while armed. Two state search warrants were served at Richardson's residence, leading to the recovery of multiple firearms, ammunition, equipment to produce child pornography and pornography involving juveniles. ATF was later contacted to assist with the investigation.

“Richardson is no longer an armed child predator,” said Cavanaugh. “Parents in Thomasville can rest assured that Richardson is no longer a community threat. I applaud the Thomasville Police Department for uncovering Richardson's dark world and putting it to an end through our joint effort.”

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The case is the result of the combined efforts of ATF and the Thomasville Police Department under a Project Safe Neighborhoods violent crime reduction initiative known locally as “Alabama ICE” (Isolate the Criminal Element).

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