

**Testimony Outline of  
Ernie Allen, President  
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children**

COPA Commission Hearing  
Thursday, June 8, 2000  
“Resources for Families that are One Click Away” Panel

- I.**        *Online Victimization: A Report on the Nation’s Youth*
  - A. Congress’s Request for Data
  - B. Major Findings
  
- II.**        CyberTipline
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## CyberTipline Status

### CyberTipline Weekly Activity Report #116 (May 29 - June 4, 2000)

Type of Incident*	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Project to Date</u>
Child Pornography	241	16,809
Child Prostitution	7	436
Child Sex Tourism	1	275
Child Sexual Molestation (not in the family)	16	1,139
Online Enticement of Children for Sexual Acts	23	2,491
<b>Total # of Reports</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>21,150</b>

\*As selected by reporting person/caller when completing this form.

\*\*Blank Reports: 336 (project to date)

### Online Service Provider Referrals

	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Project to Date</u>
CT Reports sent to AOL	2	566
CT Reports sent to Compuserve --	--	1

### ISP Referrals to CyberTipline

	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Project to Date</u>
Bell Atlantic	--	2
UUNet	--	5

### European Hotline Referrals to CyberTipline

	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Project to Date</u>
Internet Watch Foundation (UK)	--	29
Belgium Judicial Police	--	24
Meldpunt (Netherlands)	6	306
ISPA (Austria)	--	67
ISPAI (Ireland)	--	10
AFA (France)	1	10

## CyberTipline Effectiveness

Following are recent “success stories” resulting from CyberTipline reports. The examples illustrate how NCMEC’s Exploited Child Unit (ECU) analysts respond to child sexual exploitation reports and how they work with federal, state, and local law enforcement to provide the most usable information for investigation purposes.

**Florida, May 2000:** An anonymous report to the CyberTipline provided a URL to a child pornography site. ECU analysts accessed the site and confirmed that several images of child pornography were located in various subdirectories. The site also advertised additional images of child pornography and linked to additional child pornography sites that were located on different IP addresses. An Internet search conducted on the domain name for the reported web site led ECU analysts to an individual in Tallahassee, Florida, who was using a post office box address. ECU analysts forwarded the information to the Sex Crime Unit at the Tallahassee Police Department. On May 5 the suspect was charged with 22 felony counts of promoting sexual performance by a child.

**California, March 2000:** A child's mother reported online that she just learned that a family friend molested her 14-year-old daughter when the child was 11-years old. The 54-year-old suspect fondled the child during a sleep over at his house. The child was a friend of the suspect's son. ECU staff contacted the reporting person (RP) to gather additional information on the case and then forwarded the report, along with AutoTrack search results, to local law enforcement in California. The assigned detective recently contacted NCMEC to report that the suspect, after admitting to the molestation, was arrested on March 4 for two felony counts of child sexual molestation.

**New York, March 2000:** ECU staff received a report from a mother whose 13-year-old daughter and her daughter's 13-year-old friend had traveled from the Bronx, New York, to Staten Island, New York, to meet two adults they had been corresponding with online. Upon their arrival in Staten Island, the adults engaged in sexual activities with the girls. The reporting person contacted NYPD, and upon the advice of law enforcement, took her daughter to be medically examined. The exam confirmed that molestation had occurred. ECU staff conducted AutoTrack searches on the suspect's pager and phone numbers as well as conducting Internet searches on his e-mail address. ECU staff contacted the NYPD and offered assistance regarding the Internet-related aspect of this case. Local law enforcement then informed NCMEC that both suspects had been arrested.

**North Carolina, March 2000:** ECU analysts received a report about a 44-year-old man who was contacting the reporting person (RP) and asking her to run away with him because he thought the RP was a 15-year-old female. Because no suspect information was received, ECU staff contacted the RP and received additional information about the incident and the suspect's e-mail address. ECU analysts reviewed an online profile for the suspect and from the identifying information they were able to query a public records database for additional location information for the suspect. ECU staff confirmed the suspect was residing in the state indicated on his profile and the suspect was using a post office box address. ECU analysts contacted the U.S. Postal Inspection Service about this

report. The Postal Inspector began an online investigation acting as the fictitious 15-year-old female. The suspect was arrested on March 23 after traveling from North Carolina to Fredricksburg, Virginia, to have sex with the fictitious child. The suspect was charged federally for traveling in interstate commerce for the purpose of having sex with a person under the age of 18.

**Ohio, February 2000:** A citizen reported to the CyberTipline that he had been sent child pornography. The sender of the images claimed to be the adult in the pictures and stated that his 40-year-old friend was also molesting one of the boys in the images. The citizen was advised to contact his local FBI field office to determine the right course of action for transferring the evidence to law enforcement. ECU analysts uncovered several e-mail accounts, newsgroup postings, a web site, an ICQ account, and an Akron address for the suspect. The Akron Police Department and the Ohio Attorney General's Office were notified. Police arrested the suspect at work and executed a search warrant at his home. The suspect has been charged with the rape of two boys, corruption of a minor (for a third boy) and pandering sexually oriented matter on the Internet.

**Florida, February 2000:** A Florida mother reported that her son had recently disclosed that his baseball coach was touching him inappropriately when they were away on camping trips. ECU staff contacted the caller and gathered additional information regarding the suspect's contact with her son and the children on the team. ECU analysts became aware of an additional child victim and spoke with the second mother regarding her son's recent disclosure. ECU staff confirmed the suspect's Florida address using public records databases, and forwarded the CyberTipline report to local law enforcement and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Days later, ECU spoke with the local investigating officer and was told that the case was suspended. Days later, the RP contacted the ECU analysts and stated there was another child who had recently disclosed additional information about the suspect. Again, ECU advised the RP to get the child's mother to call so that the additional information could be added to the original CyberTipline report. ECU spoke with the third mother and added supplemental information to the report regarding her son's recent behavior changes and a disclosure he made. This report was sent out to a new investigator with the local law enforcement agency and to FDLE. On February 26 the suspect was arrested and is being charged with three counts of lewd and lascivious behavior.

**Alabama, January 2000:** A person reported to the CyberTipline the alleged molestation of her 9-year-old niece by the niece's mother's boyfriend. The mother denied the abuse. ECU staff ran searches on the suspect and found information on his residency for the past four years. ECU staff spoke with the reporting person (RP) and gained additional information about the incidents, the child's disclosure, the medical examination of the child, and law enforcement's current involvement in the case. ECU analysts provided the RP with several different victim resources and encouraged the RP to have the child's biological father and stepmother make a report directly to law enforcement. ECU contacted the Sheriff's Office and explained the case and the urgency of getting this information out prior to the weekend, since the child was still in contact with the suspect. The report was then faxed to the Sheriff who had jurisdiction in the case. An officer with the local police department then contacted ECU and informed us their department currently had two arrest warrants for the suspect on child abuse charges. He also stated that the Sheriff's Office would be filing a separate search warrant for first-degree rape

charges. However, at this point they were uncertain of the suspect's location. ECU provided law enforcement with the suspect's residential information from the national comprehensive search on AutoTrack. The following day, the officer at the police department called to inform the ECU that the suspect was incarcerated in the Fayette County (AL) jail.

**Wisconsin, November 1999:** Based on a CyberTipline report from a European child pornography hotline, ECU analysts confirmed a site with images of children engaged in sexual activities with adults and other children. An ECU analyst's search results indicated that the creator of the web site resided in Wisconsin, and public records searches provided an address for the creator. ECU staff contacted the Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force to alert them to this information. Upon receipt of the CyberTipline lead, the task force executed a search warrant at the 17-year-old suspect's home. Based on evidence seized, the suspect is facing felony counts for the possession of child pornography.

**Michigan, September 1999:** An anonymous CyberTipline report led ECU analysts to find graphic child pornography of female children under the age of eight online. Using various Internet search tools, ECU analysts identified the suspect, reviewed his profile, and ascertained his age, location, and other critical identifying information. This data was utilized to perform further queries that provided the suspect's first name, last name, and his exact date of birth. ECU transmitted the information to the Michigan State Police, who executed a search warrant at the suspect's residence. Evidence collected included over 1,250 photos depicting young girls in sexually explicit positions and 14 video files that show girls as young as 5-years-old being sexually abused by adult males. The suspect was using approximately 10 e-mail addresses to communicate online.