



# **NEWS RELEASE**

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY MCMASTER  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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## **Greenville Sheriff Arrests Alabama Man In Internet Predator Case**

**Columbia** - Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Jared Heath Gaskey, 21, of 515 George Wallace Drive, Apt. C25, in Gadsden, Alabama, was arrested on May 8, 2008, in an Internet predator investigation conducted by the Greenville County Sheriff's Office.

The Greenville County Sheriff's Office is a member of the Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

Gaskey was arrested on one (1) count of Kidnapping (§ 16-3-910), a felony offense punishable to thirty (30) years imprisonment, and one (1) count of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor (§ 16-15-342), a felony offense punishable to ten (10) years imprisonment.

Arrest warrants allege that beginning March 1, 2008, Gaskey solicited sex in online "chats" on websites such as Myspace.com with a fourteen (14) year old girl. On April 25, 2008, he is accused of driving from his home in Alabama to the victim's middle school in Greenville County. The victim willingly accompanied Gaskey back to Alabama.

The victim's mother discovered her missing, and reported her to law enforcement as a missing person/runaway. The victim's cell phone was tracked through Georgia and Alabama. After making contact with the victim, the victim's mother notified the Greenville County Sheriff's Office of the location of Gaskey's apartment. At that time, the Gadsden (Alabama) Police Department went to the location and located both Gaskey and the victim. Both admitted that they had engaged in sexual intercourse.

The Gadsden Police Department charged Gaskey with Rape, 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree and Solicitation of a Minor.

Gaskey waived extradition and was transported to Greenville, where he was denied bond. An arrest photo is available through the Greenville County Detention Center.

This is the one hundred twenty-fifth (125<sup>th</sup>) arrest for the Task Force.

The case will be prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office.

McMaster stressed that all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until they are proven guilty in a court of law.

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