



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY MCMASTER  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

For Immediate Release  
December 15, 2008

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## **Greenville Police Arrest Columbia Man in Internet Predator Sting**

**Columbia** - Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Gregory Keith Ethridge, 28, of 200 Berryhill Road, Apt. 235, in Columbia, was arrested on December 13, 2008, in an undercover Internet sting conducted by the City of Greenville Police Department.

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

Ethridge was arrested on two (2) counts of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor (§16-15-342), a felony offense punishable to ten (10) years imprisonment on each count, and one (1) count of Attempted Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor (§16-3-655), a felony offense punishable to twenty (20) years imprisonment.

Arrest warrants allege that beginning in December 2007, Ethridge solicited sex on the Internet from an individual he believed to be a thirteen (13) year old girl. In reality, he was communicating with an undercover Greenville Police officer. Ethridge further arranged to meet the "girl" for sex at a predetermined location in Greenville. He was arrested upon his arrival at that location.

The Lexington County Sheriff's Office (also a member of the Task Force) assisted the case with the execution of a search warrant, which resulted in the seizure of two (2) computers and computer-related items.

Ethridge was assigned a \$150,000 bond. [A booking photo is available through the Greenville County Detention Center.](#)

This is the one hundred forty-fifth (145<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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