

# Man to serve 15 years in prison for attempted sex trafficking of a child

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**TROY - Shane L. Schlaef****er, 28, of Troy, Illinois,** was sentenced in the U.S. District Court to 15 years in prison for Attempted Commercial Sex Trafficking of a Child and Attempted Enticement of a Minor, Acting United States Attorney James L. Porter has announced. Schlaef<sup>er</sup> was also ordered to pay a \$500 fine and a \$200 special assessment. When he is released from prison, Schlaef<sup>er</sup> will be on federal supervised release for an additional 15 years. He has been in custody since he was arrested on these charges on April 6, 2015.

Documents filed in the U.S. District Court establish that in November of 2014, during an authorized undercover Internet investigation, a Special Investigator with the Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) received numerous messages from Schlaefer in which he stated that he wanted to engage in sexual acts with a child.

From November 14, 2014 to April 6, 2015, Schlaefer sent continuous messages requesting that the undercover investigator, posing as the mother of a 13-year-old girl, travel from Ohio to Illinois to allow Schlaefer to engage in sexual acts with the minor. Schlaefer offered to pay her \$500. He also sent text messages directly to who he believed was the 13-year-old girl describing the sexual acts he wanted to perform. On April 6, 2015, the undercover investigator, communicating in an undercover capacity, agreed to travel to Troy, Illinois with her 13-year-old daughter to allow Schlaefer to engage sexual acts with the child.

On the night of April 6, 2015, Schlaefer arrived at a predetermined location in Collinsville, Illinois, exited his vehicle and was arrested by federal agents before entering the building. Schlaefer had \$500 in United States currency in a sealed envelope within his pants pocket. During an interview with law enforcement, Schlaefer admitted that he had been communicating on the Internet with a woman who he thought was the mother of a 13-year-old girl living in Ohio and that he had offered to pay the woman \$500 to drive to Illinois with her daughter to allow him to engage in sexual acts with the child. Schlaefer admitted that when he arrived at the pre-determined location, it was his intent to get a room at a nearby hotel where he would then engage in sexual intercourse with the child.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who sexually exploit children, and to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.usdoj.gov/psc](http://www.usdoj.gov/psc). For more information about internet safety education, please visit [www.usdoj.gov/psc](http://www.usdoj.gov/psc) and click on the tab "resources."

The investigation was conducted by investigators for the Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the United States Secret Service Southern Illinois Cyber-Crime Unit, and the Illinois.