

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Feb. 4, 2010

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MAYS LANDING – An Atlantic County Grand Jury indicted a former hospital security guard yesterday on one count of endangering the welfare of a child for allegedly downloading child pornography onto his work computer, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated on Thursday.

It is alleged that on various dates in July and August of 2008, while working at Shore Memorial Hospital in Somers Point, John Handel, 57, of Cape May County, downloaded 70 images depicting children in sexual acts. Hospital officials noticed unusual computer activity and contacted the Somers Point police in August of 2009. Police conducted an investigation with the Prosecutor's Office Computer Crimes Unit, which led to Handel's Aug. 14, 2009 arrest, according to Assistant Prosecutor Janet Gravitz, who presented the case to the Grand Jury.

Endangering the welfare of a child is a crime of the fourth-degree and carries a maximum prison sentence of 18 months and \$10,000 in fines.

*****The indictment is merely an accusation. The defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.**

Anyone with information involving serious crimes is asked to call the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office at 609-909-7800 or go to the Prosecutor's Office Web site at <http://www.acpo.org/tips.html> and provide information by filling out the form anonymously on the Submit a Tip page. People can also call Crime Stoppers at 609-652-1234 or 1-800-658-8477 (TIPS) or visit the Crime Stoppers Website at <http://www.crimestoppersatlantic.com/>. Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and indictment of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.