

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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MAYS LANDING – An Egg Harbor Township man entered a guilty plea on Monday to fourth-degree endangering the welfare of a child and second-degree distribution of child pornography by sharing it on the “Peer to Peer” Network LimeWire, an Internet program that allows for the sharing of files between its users, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

During a plea hearing today Steven Chalakee, 22, admitted sharing numerous images and videos of child pornography on the Internet by downloading the pornography and allowing others by virtue of the network to share it, according to Assistant Prosecutor Janet Gravitz.

Members of the Oklahoma City Office of the FBI initiated the investigation in March of 2009. On June 3, 2009, they contacted the Atlantic County Prosecutor’s Office, as the transmissions were traced to Chalakee’s home in Egg Harbor Township. On June 10, 2009, Prosecutor’s Office Computer Crimes Unit detectives executed a search warrant at the defendant’s home in the 6500 block of Delilah Road where they seized a computer and various other items related to the crime. Chalakee was arrested in Ventnor while at work, Gravitz said.

The second-degree crime carries a prison term of up to 10 years in prison. However, based upon the defendant’s lack of criminal record, he will likely be sentenced to the third-degree range of three to five years in prison. In addition, Chalakee faces up to \$150,000 in fines. Superior Court Judge Charles Middlesworth will sentence Chalakee on April 30.

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.