

**ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE
4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330
Theodore F. L. Housel
Prosecutor**

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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MAYS LANDING— Authorities arrested a Gloucester City man after he arranged to meet a 14-year-old girl for a sexual encounter and was met by detectives instead, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

William Ritchie, 52, was arrested in Mays Landing by members of the Prosecutor's Office Computer Crimes Unit and charged with second-degree luring and second-degree attempted sexual assault. It is alleged that Ritchie met the "14-year-old girl" in an Internet chat room a couple of weeks ago before arranging the sexual meeting, Prosecutor Housel stated.

Superior Court Judge Bernard E. DeLury set Ritchie's bail at \$150,000 cash.

If convicted, Ritchie could face up to 10 years in prison and \$150,000 in fines for each second-degree crime.

*****These charges are merely an accusation and not proof of guilt. In all criminal cases, a charged defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.**

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.