

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

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1 Page (s)

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MAYS LANDING— An Atlantic County Grand Jury indicted a Camden County man today on charges of second-degree attempted luring and second-degree attempted sexual assault, for engaging in sexually explicit conversations and sending sexually explicit webcam videos of himself to a Prosecutor's Office detective posing as a 14-year-old girl, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated.

On Aug. 2, William Ritchie 52, of Gloucester City, traveled from his home in Camden County to Mays Landing to meet the girl but instead was met by members of the Prosecutor's Office Computer Crimes Unit. In addition to attempted luring and attempted sexual assault, the defendant was indicted on charges of third-degree attempted endangering and fourth-degree attempted criminal sexual contact, according to Assistant Prosecutor Janet Gravitz who presented the case to the Grand Jury this morning.

It is alleged in the 11-count indictment, that Ritchie met the girl in an Internet chat room at the end of July and had several sexually explicit conversations with her before arranging to meet her.

If convicted, Ritchie could face up to 10 years in prison and \$150,000 in fines.

*****The indictment is merely an accusation. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and 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.