



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY
QUEENS COUNTY
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568
718-286-6000**

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CONTACT: KEVIN RYAN
HELEN PETERSON
MERIS CAMPBELL
(718) 286-6315

CPA CHARGED WITH POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Faces Up To Seven Years In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Far Rockaway man who is employed as a certified public accountant at a major Manhattan accounting and consulting firm has been charged with possessing and sending child porn images to others using his various America Online (AOL) accounts.

“This case was developed as a result of the cooperation of a network of law enforcement organizations throughout the country who are all working to combat Internet-based child exploitation,” said District Attorney Brown. “Each time an individual who trades in child pornography is arrested, the subscriber information of other individuals with whom he trades is relayed to law enforcement agencies. In this instance, arrests have been made in Missouri, New Mexico, California and New York based on one cybertip made to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) in Alexandria, Virginia, a non-profit agency that is mandated by the federal government to store and catalogue known images of child pornography.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Aron J. Sotnikoff, 28, of 833 Central Avenue, Far Rockaway, Queens, who is employed as an audit manager at Rosen Seymour Shapss Martin & Company LLP, in Manhattan. Sotnikoff was arraigned last night before Queens Criminal Court Judge Elisa Koenderman on a 108-count criminal complaint charging him with 54 counts of promoting a sexual performance by a child and 54 counts of possessing a sexual performance by a child. Sotnikoff, who faces up to seven years in prison if convicted, was ordered held on \$20,000 bail, to surrender his U.S. passport and to return to court on October 13, 2009.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, Sotnikoff sent and received numerous e-mails containing images of child pornography between March 11, 2007, and June 16, 2008, using AOL accounts he created – including clearview2481@aol.com, kozyshak19@aol.com, and lookin4small27@aol.com

In addition to the work of AOL, NCMEC, the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department, the New Mexico Attorney General’s Internet Crimes Against Children Unit and the San Bernardino, California Sheriff’s Department, the investigation was conducted by Detective Joseph Garcia of the NYPD’s Computer Crimes Squad, under the direct supervision of Sergeant Felix Rivera and Lieutenant Dennis Lane and the overall supervision of Deputy Chief Jeremiah J. Quinlan.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Kateri A. Gasper is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Robert D. Alexander, Chief of the Computer Crimes Unit of the District Attorney’s Special Proceedings Bureau, Anthony M. Communiello, Bureau Chief, and Oscar W. Ruiz, Deputy Bureau Chief, as well as the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney Linda M. Cantoni of the Investigations Division.

It should be noted that a complaint is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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Note to Editor: E-version of this press release posted at www.queensda.org.