

CONTACT:

Tanny M. McGinnis
Community Relations
Garfield County Sheriff's Office
106 County Road 333-A
Rifle, CO 81650
Phone: 970-309-9248
E-mail: tmcginnis@garcosheriff.com



SHERIFF LOU VALLARIO
GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

October 21, 2011

Garfield County, Colorado: At approximately p.m. on October 19th, 2011, deputies and detectives from the Garfield County Sheriff's Office arrested Dennis Salmonsens, 35, at his residence (149 East 2nd Street, Parachute, Garfield County, Colorado) for possession/distribution of child pornography. Salmonsens was booked into the Garfield County Jail with a \$50,000 bond on one count of sexual exploitation of a child (more than 20 different items), as defined by and in violation of C.R.S. 18-6-403, a class 4 felony. A warrant was signed for his arrest on October 19th, 2011 by the Garfield County District Courts.

In July 2011, the Garfield County Sheriff's office began an investigation into the online distribution of child pornography via peer-to-peer networks in Colorado. The Garfield County Sheriff's Office investigators located a suspect in Garfield County that had images of child pornography available for download. In August 2011, a search warrant was executed at Salmonsens's residence by the Garfield County Sheriff's Office. Evidence recovered during the search warrant confirmed that Salmonsens was responsible for the possession and distribution of child pornography.

Since the existence of the Sheriff's computer forensics and Internet investigations, known as FRED (Forensic Recovery of Evidence Device), in the Annex near Rifle, investigators promptly began analyzing the material. They were able to secure an arrest warrant based upon solid material evidence versus purely circumstantial findings. In the past, this type of evidence processing turn-around with the Colorado Bureau of Investigations office in Grand Junction or the Rocky Mountain Regional Computer Forensics Lab in Denver would have taken three to six months due to the enormous amount of material they must routinely process.

The Garfield County Sheriff's Office possesses specialized high tech crimes and computer forensic analysis capabilities as part of the Investigations Division. Specialized computer hardware, software and law enforcement techniques were used in this investigation as well as in all other investigations involving the exploitation of children undertaken by the Garfield County Sheriff's Office. The Garfield County Sheriff's Office is also a member of the ICAC (Internet Crimes against Children) task force.

In the last 13 months, Sheriff's investigators have completed 25 such evidence analyses in-house whereas, prior to construction of the computer forensics room at the Annex, they averaged 13.5 a year since late 2006. Concerning Salmonsens' case, investigators have thoroughly analyzed and documented over 500 gigabytes of data for the court proceedings.

Dennis Salmonsens posted his bond within hours of his arrest. He is scheduled to appear in court on November 2nd, 2011, for advisement of charges.

The mission of the Garfield County Sheriff's Office is to provide solutions for the people by utilizing and employing strong morals, good character, untarnished integrity, technical knowledge and fiscal responsibility through professional, ethical and equitable conduct.

#