

**Michelle J. Courier**  
Boone County State's Attorney

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Belvidere Man Indicted on Numerous Counts of Child Pornography**

Boone County State's Attorney Michelle J. Courier announced that Carlos L. Witherington, 43, of Belvidere, has been indicted on 53 counts of Aggravated Child Pornography in that it is alleged that he possessed pictures of children whom the defendant knew to be under the age of 13 years old while the children were actually engaged in an act of sexual conduct or penetration with another. Witherington has also been indicted on 5 other counts of Aggravated Child Pornography in that it is alleged that Witherington made and possessed videotapes of children under the age of 13 years old while the children were engaged in sexual conduct with Witherington. A third indictment alleges 2 more counts of Aggravated Child Pornography and 1 count of Criminal Sexual Assault in that it is alleged that Witherington produced and possessed a video of a child whom the defendant knew to be under the age of 13 while engaged in an act of sexual conduct with Carlos Witherington.

The production allegations are Class X felonies, which are non-probationable, and carry a sentencing range of 6 to 30 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. The possession allegations are Class 2 Felonies and carry a sentencing range of 3 to 7 in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Based upon the nature of these allegations, it is important that anyone with any information concerning Witherington is urged to call the Belvidere Police Department at 544-2135 or Crimestoppers a 547-7867.

Witherington's next court date is July 10, 2009, at 1:30 p.m., which will be a hearing on Witherington's Motion to Reduce Bond. His bond currently is set at \$1,000,000 (10%).

Members of the public are reminded that the indictments contain only charges and are not proof of the defendant's guilt. Every defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the State's burden to prove his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.