



## OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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### NEWS RELEASE

June 28, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### Ridgeland Resident Going to Prison for Child Exploitation

Jackson, Miss.- A Madison county man has been sentenced to prison for possessing child pornography, announced Attorney General Jim Hood.

David Stough, 46, of Ridgeland, pleaded guilty to one count of child exploitation Monday before Madison County Circuit Judge John Emfinger. He was sentenced to 40 years in the custody of the Mississippi Department of Corrections, with five years to serve and 5 years of post-release supervision. Stough was ordered to pay \$1,000 to the Mississippi Children's Trust Fund and \$1,000 to the Mississippi Crime Victim's Compensation Fund. Stough must also register as a sex offender.

Stough was arrested at his home Sept. 4, 2014, by investigators with the Attorney General's Cyber Crime Unit/Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, with assistance from the Ridgeland Police Department, an ICAC Task Force affiliate. The Attorney General's investigation revealed that Stough had downloaded numerous images of child pornography on his computer.

"Our attorneys and investigators worked diligently with the Ridgeland Police Department to ensure this man was convicted and off the streets," Attorney General Hood said. "We will continue to focus all our resources, including advanced computer hardware and software, to seek out and find child predators and bring them to justice. We thank Judge Emfinger for this sentence."

"The relationship that exists between these agencies to come together and work hand in hand throughout an investigation into these predators is of most importance for a successful prosecution," Ridgeland Chief of Police John R. Neal said. "The Ridgeland Police Department is fortunate to have a partnership with General Hood and the agents of the ICAC Task Force to work diligently in building these cases. The sentence imposed should send a message that law enforcement in Mississippi takes these crimes very seriously and will prosecute to the fullest extent of the law."

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant Attorney General Brandon Ogburn of the Attorney General's Cyber Crime Division.

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