

# *News Release*

For Immediate Release  
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## **Man Convicted of Possessing Child Pornography**

**Charleston, S.C.** – A Charleston County jury found Willie Don Horry (DOB 9/11/1960) guilty of possessing child pornography. Upon conviction, Circuit Court Judge Deadra L. Jefferson sentenced Horry to a term of 2 years, suspended on the service of 6 months, followed by a 2 year probationary term with mandatory sex offender treatment. Horry will be screened while in prison for possible civil commitment under the sexually violent predator act. Horry will also have to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

In July 2007, Sergeant Trisha Taylor of the Charleston Police Department (CPD) charged Willie Horry with the offense of distributing child pornography after her investigation revealed that he had downloaded and made available to others child pornographic videos on the “Gnutella” peer-to-peer online network, which he accessed via the popular “Limewire” software. Later computer forensics confirmed the presence of child pornography on Horry’s computer.

At trial, Assistant Solicitor Chad Simpson argued that the sharing of files on the network constituted the distribution, exhibition, receipt, and exchanging of child pornography; an offense carrying a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 10 years imprisonment. The defense argued that the Defendant had no criminal intent and did not know the content of the files he was downloading. After approximately 3 hours of deliberation, the jury returned a verdict of guilty to the lesser included offense of possessing child pornography.

The State was represented by 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Assistant Solicitors Chad Simpson and Jessica Baldwin.

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