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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA – Stanislaus County District Attorney James Brazelton announced today that Ronald Wallace Philpot, age 45, of Modesto, was sentenced to 3 years 8 months in State Prison after he entered a plea of guilty to one count of Commercial Distribution of Child Pornography (California Penal Code §311.2(b)) and one count of, Possession of a Completed Check with Intent to Defraud (California Penal Code §476).

On December 14, 2002, the defendant entered Money Mart at 1650 E. Hatch, in Ceres, and cashed two counterfeit checks in the amounts of \$228.65 and 262.55. When the police investigated, defendant was found to be in possession of a computer containing approximately 300,000 pornographic images. Detectives viewed over 30,000 of the images and determined that of those 30,000 at least 127 contained images of child pornography. Further investigation revealed that the defendant had been running two commercial websites on the internet containing images of child pornography.

Upon his plea of guilty Philpot was remanded to custody pending his delivery to serve his time in state prison. Deputy District Attorney W.R. McKenzie prosecuted the case for the People and is currently assigned to the High Tech Task Force.

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