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February 15, 2013

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Texas Attorney General’s Cyber Crimes Unit Arrests Federal Agent for Sexually Soliciting a Minor Online

AUSTIN – Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott’s Cyber Crimes Unit arrested Forrest William Johnson, 50, on Wednesday for using the Internet to sexually solicit a minor. At the time of his arrest, Johnson indicated he is a federal agent with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and is assigned to law enforcement duties at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport.

According to Cyber Crimes Unit officers, Johnson posted an explicit online advertisement. When Johnson received a response from an individual he believed was a 15-year-old girl, he sexually propositioned the child and arranged a personal encounter so he could sexually assault her at a predetermined location. The “girl” was actually an undercover police officer with the Cyber Crimes Unit. When Johnson arrived at the meeting location, he was arrested by Cyber Crimes Unit police officers.

Johnson faces a second-degree felony charge for online solicitation of a minor. After his arrest, Johnson was transported to Williamson County Jail, where he remains in custody in lieu of a \$20,000 bond. If convicted, Johnson faces two to 10 years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine.

Attorney General Abbott has earned a national reputation for aggressively arresting and prosecuting online child predators. In 2003, he created the Cyber Crimes Unit, which protects children from online sexual exploitation. The Cyber Crimes Unit and the Fugitive Unit, which locates sex offenders who have violated the terms of their parole and could be stalking children, have combined to arrest more than 2,800 sex offenders. Cyber Crimes Unit investigators also have traveled to schools and communities statewide to offer educational cyber safety programs.

For more information on Attorney General Abbott’s efforts to crack down on sex predators, visit the attorney general’s website at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov or call (800) 252-8011.

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