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DEPORTATION OFFICER ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF PRODUCING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

BOSTON – A Hull man was arrested today on an Indictment charging him with producing child pornography.

U.S. Attorney Michael J. Sullivan, Gregory K. Null, Special Agent in Charge of the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General and Steve J. Mocsary, Special Agent in Charge of Immigration and Customs Enforcement - Office of Professional Responsibility in New England announced that **MICHAEL CLIFFORD**, 44, of Hull, MA, was arrested today on an Indictment charging him with one count of using a child for sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of that conduct and transporting the images into the United States.

In documents unsealed today, the Government alleged that **CLIFFORD**, a deportation officer with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, had sex with an eleven year old child in Rio De Janeiro while **CLIFFORD** was there on official duty. It is alleged that **CLIFFORD** had picked up the child at an outside café late at night, went back to the hotel, had sex with the child and took pictures of the child involved in sexual acts. Security camera footage from the hotel showed **CLIFFORD** entering the hotel with the child late at night, and sending the child out of the hotel the following morning.

CLIFFORD faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years and a maximum of 30 years in prison, up to a \$250,000 fine and a term of supervised release of between at least five years to life.

The case is being investigated by Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General and Immigration and Customs Enforcement - Office of Professional Responsibility in New England. Significant cooperation and assistance was provided by: Immigration and Customs Enforcement - Office of International Affairs, Attaché Brazil; the Hull Police Department; Government of the State of Rio de Janeiro; Secretary of State Security, Rio de Janeiro; Chief of Civil Police, Rio de Janeiro and Precinct of Child and Adolescent Protection, Rio de Janeiro. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Dana Gershengorn.

The details contained in the Indictment are allegations. The defendant is presumed to be innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.