PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ST. STEPHEN MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT, FRAUD, WITNESS TAMPERING AND EXTORTION SCHEME

CHARLESTON, South Carolina ---- A St. Stephen man was sentenced today to 15 years in prison on 11 federal charges. Acting United States Attorney Kevin F. McDonald stated that **Kelly Edward Wadford, Jr.,** age 55, of St. Stephen, South Carolina, was convicted by a jury last November of fraud and unauthorized access to computers (attempt); aggravated identity theft; attempted possession of flunitrazepam (also known as Rohypnol, a "date rape" drug) with intent to distribute; inducing interstate travel for illegal sexual activity; three counts of threatening interstate communications; attempted witness intimidation; and the use of a firearm in connection with the attempted witness intimidation, a crime of violence. Previously, Wadford had entered guilty pleas to two counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. Mr. Wadford faced a prison term of no less than seven years and as much as life, and fines of up $2,750,000.

Judge Patrick Michael Duffy imposed a sentence greater than recommended by federal sentencing guidelines, citing the seriousness of Wadford's multiple offenses, and his

lack of remorse. He also imposed a three-year period of supervised release after the prison term and prohibited Wadford from having access to a networked computer without permission. The evidence at trial established that Wadford had ordered 250 tablets of the "date rape" drug Rohypnol from a Brazilian supplier over the Internet in March of 2005, and then used the drug in April of 2005 to incapacitate a female employee that he was supervising on a sales trip in Ohio. While she was incapacitated, Wadford took compromising digital photographs of her in a Ohio hotel room. Over a year later, after Wadford had been fired from his managerial position, he gained unauthorized access to his former company's email system, and sent threatening and extortionate emails to his former co-workers, making it appear as if one of them had actually sent the emails. One of the extortionate emails included a threat to distribute the compromising photos. After he was charged with federal offenses in December 2006, Wadford was stopped by police on January 3, 2007, in Summerville in the vicinity of one of the victim's residence, riding a bicycle, wearing a mask, and in possession of a loaded 45 caliber handgun. Mr. McDonald noted that the police were alerted by an unidentified female neighbor who had seen Wadford and flagged down an officer. "She may have saved a life," he stated.

Mr. McDonald stated that the case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorneys Eric Klumb and Rhett DeHart prosecuted the case.

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