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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ROBERT OLIVER SENTENCED TO FIFTEEN (15) YEARS FOR 2005 SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION OF A MINOR**

FORSYTH, MO - Taney County Prosecuting Attorney, Jeffrey M. Merrell announced today that ROBERT MICHAEL OLIVER, dob: 1/21/1961, of Branson, Missouri was sentenced today by Taney County Circuit Judge Mark Orr to fifteen (15) years imprisonment on two (2) counts of the class A felony of sexual exploitation of a minor, and ten (10) years on two (2) counts of the class B felony of promoting child pornography in the first degree. All four counts are to run concurrent and probation was denied.

On August 1, 2007, a three (3) woman, nine (9) man jury convicted ROBERT MICHAEL OLIVER of two (2) counts of the class A felony of sexual exploitation of a minor, and two (2) counts of the class B felony of promoting child pornography. Deputies from the Taney County Sheriff's Department made contact with ROBERT MICHAEL OLIVER on November 6, 2005 at his residence in Branson after a disclosure by two neighbor boys, ages five (5) and eight (8) that they were photographed naked. From the residence a digital camera and personal computer were recovered. Computer forensics work completed by the Taney County Sheriff's Department recovered pornographic pictures of the boys from the camera, as well as countless images of child pornography from his personal computer.

Taney County Prosecuting Attorney, Jeffrey M. Merrell was satisfied with the sentence stating, "with the popularity of computers today, digital child pornography can create a permanent record of sexual abuse that can potentially be accessed and viewed by anybody on the Internet."

Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Christopher W. Lebeck, also commented that "without the outstanding investigative work of the detectives of the Taney County Sheriff's Department, we would not have been able to hold another amateur child pornographer accountable for victimizing young boys."

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