



# Abilene Police Department Information Release



*Our mission is to work together to build a community of the highest quality for present and future generations.*

450 Pecan Street  
Abilene, Texas 79601  
325-673-8331  
[www.abilenepolice.org](http://www.abilenepolice.org)

Subject – Online Solicitation of a Minor

Contact – US Attorney’s Office-Lubbock, Texas

Phone – (806) 472-7351

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the Abilene Police Department and Special Agents with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) conducted a joint undercover operation. The suspect, Charles Linwood Heard (age 55), made arrangements to meet with a person whom he believed to be a fifteen year old boy for sexual purposes. The communication between Heard and undercover agents posing as a minor consisted of emails and text messaging. This investigation, initiated by HSI, has been ongoing for approximately 40 days.

On today’s date, Heard arrived at a predetermined public location on the south side of Abilene and was arrested. The applicable state charge is Online Solicitation of a Minor, a second degree felony. If convicted, Heard faces 2-20 years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine. His bond was set at \$75,000 and Heard has made bail.

The investigation into this matter is ongoing. The Abilene Police Department’s Crimes Against Persons Unit is acting in support of HSI in this case. Federal charges are pending. Any media requests for further information should be directed to the United States Attorney’s Office in Lubbock, Texas.

Respectfully,

Sgt. Lynn Beard  
Crimes Against Persons Unit  
Abilene Police Department