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CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIF.
LOS ANGELES

BY 

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

February 2008 Grand Jury

11	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	Case No. CR	CR08-00582
12	Plaintiff,	)	<u>I N D I C T M E N T</u>	
13	v.	)	[18 U.S.C. § 371: Conspiracy;	
14	LORI DREW,	)	18 U.S.C. §§ 1030(a)(2)(C),	
15	Defendant.	)	(c)(2)(B)(ii): Accessing Protected	
16		)	Computers to Obtain Information; 18	
17		)	U.S.C. § 2(a), (b): Aiding and	
		)	Abetting and Causing an Act to Be	
		)	Done	

The Grand Jury charges:

COUNT ONE

[18 U.S.C. § 371]

INTRODUCTION

DEFENDANT LORI DREW & M.T.M.

1. At all times relevant to this indictment, defendant LORI DREW ("defendant DREW") was an individual residing in O'Fallon, Missouri. Defendant DREW possessed at least one computer at her residence and accessed the Internet from a telephone line located there.

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1 2. At all times relevant to this indictment, victim M.T.M.
2 was a 13 year-old girl who resided in O'Fallon, Missouri. M.T.M.
3 possessed at least one computer at her residence and accessed the
4 Internet from a telephone line located there.

5 **COMPUTER TERMINOLOGY**

6 Internet Service Providers

7 3. Internet Service Providers ("ISP") offer their customers
8 access to the Internet using telephone or other telecommunications
9 lines. ISPs provide Internet e-mail accounts that allow users to
10 communicate with other Internet users by sending and receiving
11 electronic messages through their ISPs' servers. ISPs remotely
12 store electronic files on behalf of their customers, and may
13 provide other services unique to each particular ISP.

14 Log Files

15 4. Log files are computer-generated lists that contain
16 various types of information regarding the activities of a
17 computer. They are often chronological, and record data such as
18 the time of access to certain records, the processes running on a
19 computer, and the usage of certain computer resources.

20 Server

21 5. A "server" is a centralized computer that provides
22 services for other computers connected to it via a network. The
23 other computers attached to a server sometimes are called
24 "clients." In a large company, it is common for individual
25 employees to have client computers at their desktops. When the
26 employees access their e-mail, or access files stored on the
27 network itself, those files are pulled electronically from the
28 server, where they are stored, and are sent to the client's

1 computer via the network. In larger networks, it is common for
2 servers to be dedicated to a single task. For example, a server
3 that is configured so that its sole task is to support a World Wide
4 Web site is known simply as a "web server."

5 Social Network Service

6 6. A social network service focuses on building online
7 communities of people who share interests and activities, or who
8 are interested in exploring the interests and activities of others.
9 Most social network services are web based and provide a variety of
10 ways for users to interact, such as e-mail and instant messaging
11 services.

12 FOX INTERACTIVE MEDIA, INC. & WWW.MYSPACE.COM

13 7. At all times relevant to this indictment, Fox Interactive
14 Media, Inc. ("FIM") was a corporation based in Beverly Hills,
15 California, which operated a website located at www.myspace.com
16 ("MySpace"). As the operator of that website, FIM acted as an
17 Internet Service Provider.

18 8. At all times relevant to this indictment, FIM's server
19 computers were located in Los Angeles County, within the Central
20 District of California, and operated in interstate and foreign
21 commerce and communication.

22 9. At all times relevant to this indictment, MySpace was a
23 website that offered social network services. As a consequence,
24 MySpace provided a forum where individuals who had registered as
25 members of MySpace could post on-line personal profiles. The
26 profiles gave users an opportunity to post information about
27 themselves as well as other content, including text, photographs,
28 video, and music. MySpace also provided members with access to

1 | certain communication services that allowed MySpace members to
2 | communicate with each other through the MySpace servers operated by
3 | FIM in Los Angeles County, California (the "MySpace servers").
4 | Although any computer user with access to the Internet could visit
5 | MySpace, only members of MySpace could view certain content on the
6 | website or use the MySpace communication services.

7 | 10. The MySpace communication services included, among other
8 | things, instant messaging and private messaging services. The
9 | instant messaging service allowed users or groups of users to
10 | communicate with one another by sending text in real-time. The
11 | private messaging service was analogous to person-to-person e-mail
12 | messages. To access these services, or to view content on MySpace,
13 | members were required to access the MySpace servers to retrieve the
14 | information.

15 | 11. To become a MySpace member, and thereby gain access to
16 | certain content and the communication services, prospective members
17 | were required to submit registration information, including name
18 | and date of birth, and agree to certain Terms of Service (the
19 | "MySpace TOS") that regulated their use of the website.
20 | Prospective members were not allowed to become members unless they
21 | provided the requested registration information and agreed to the
22 | MySpace TOS by checking a box stating that they agreed to the
23 | MySpace TOS. A copy of the applicable MySpace TOS was readily
24 | available to prospective members, members, and users of the
25 | website, who could click on a link titled "Terms of Service" or
26 | "Terms" to be directed to a web page where prospective members,
27 | members, and users of the website could review those rules.

28 | 12. Among other things, the MySpace TOS required prospective

1 members, members, and users of the website to:

2 a. Provide truthful and accurate registration
3 information;

4 b. Refrain from using any information obtained from
5 MySpace services to harass, abuse, or harm other people;

6 c. Refrain from soliciting personal information from
7 anyone under 18;

8 d. Refrain from promoting information that they knew
9 was false or misleading;

10 e. Refrain from promoting conduct that was abusive,
11 threatening, obscene, defamatory, or libelous; and

12 f. Refrain from posting photographs of other people
13 without their consent.

14 13. The MySpace TOS explained that only conduct consistent
15 with the MySpace TOS was authorized and that MySpace retained the
16 right to, among other things, investigate, take appropriate legal
17 action, and terminate any member who violated the MySpace TOS.

18 **OBJECT OF THE CONSPIRACY**

19 14. Beginning in or about September 2006, and continuing to
20 on or about October 16, 2006, in Los Angeles County, within the
21 Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant DREW and
22 co-conspirators known to the Grand Jury ("the co-conspirators")
23 knowingly conspired and agreed with each other intentionally to
24 access a computer used in interstate and foreign commerce without
25 authorization and in excess of authorized access and, by means of
26 an interstate communication, obtain information from that computer
27 to further a tortious act, namely, intentional infliction of
28 emotional distress, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1030(a)(2)(C),

1 (c) (2) (B) (2).

2 **MEANS BY WHICH THE OBJECT OF THE CONSPIRACY**
3 **WAS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED**

4 15. The object of the conspiracy was to be accomplished in
5 substance as follows:

6 a. In violation of the MySpace TOS, using a computer in
7 O'Fallon, Missouri, defendant DREW and the co-conspirators
8 registered as a member of MySpace, and obtained a MySpace account,
9 under a fictitious name.

10 b. In violation of the MySpace TOS, using a computer in
11 O'Fallon, Missouri, defendant DREW and the co-conspirators used the
12 MySpace account obtained under the fictitious name to obtain
13 information from a juvenile MySpace member.

14 c. In violation of the MySpace TOS, using a computer in
15 O'Fallon, Missouri, defendant DREW and the co-conspirators used the
16 information obtained over the MySpace computer system to torment,
17 harass, humiliate, and embarrass the juvenile MySpace member.

18 d. After the juvenile MySpace member killed herself,
19 defendant DREW and the co-conspirators, using a computer located in
20 O'Fallon, Missouri, deleted the account information for the account
21 opened under the fictitious name from the MySpace computer system
22 in order to obstruct detection of their scheme.

23 **OVERT ACTS**

24 16. In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to accomplish the
25 object of the conspiracy, defendant DREW and the co-conspirators
26 committed, caused to be committed, and aided and abetted various
27 overt acts in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of
28 California, and elsewhere, including the following:

1 Overt Act 1: On or about September 20, 2006, defendant DREW
2 and the co-conspirators obtained at MySpace an on-line account for
3 a male juvenile purportedly named "Josh Evans" (the "Josh Evans
4 MySpace Account") by falsely stating, among other things, that they
5 were a sixteen year old boy named "Josh Evans," when, in truth and
6 in fact, as defendant DREW and the co-conspirators well knew, they
7 were not a sixteen year old boy.

8 Overt Act 2: On or about September 20, 2006, defendant DREW
9 and the co-conspirators posted at the Josh Evans MySpace Account a
10 photograph of a boy without that boy's knowledge or consent.

11 Overt Act 3: On or about September 20, 2006, defendant DREW
12 and the co-conspirators, using the Josh Evans MySpace Account and
13 the alias "Josh Evans," contacted M.T.M. over the MySpace computer
14 system.

15 Overt Act 4: On or about September 22, 2006, defendant DREW
16 and the co-conspirators, using the alias "Josh Evans," told M.T.M.
17 that she was "sexi."

18 Overt Act 5: During the week of September 24, 2006,
19 defendant DREW and the co-conspirators, using the alias "Josh
20 Evans," invited M.T.M. to touch the "snake" of "Josh Evans."

21 Overt Act 6: On or about September 26, 2006, defendant DREW
22 and the co-conspirators altered the "Josh Evans" profile to flirt
23 with M.T.M..

24 Overt Act 7: On or about October 7, 2006, defendant DREW and
25 the co-conspirators, using the Josh Evans MySpace Account and the
26 alias "Josh Evans," told M.T.M. that "Josh Evans" was moving away.

27 Overt Act 8: On or about October 7, 2006, defendant DREW and
28 the co-conspirators, using the Josh Evans MySpace Account and the

1 alias "Josh Evans," induced M.T.M. to write: "aww sexi josh ur so
2 sweet if u moved back u could see me up close and personal lol."

3 Overt Act 9: On or about October 10, 2006, defendant DREW and
4 the co-conspirators, using the Josh Evans MySpace Account and the
5 alias "Josh Evans," induced M.T.M. to write: "Heyy babe!! Call me
6 sometime 636 [xxxxxxx]! Its the cell. i love you so much."

7 Overt Act 10: On or about October 16, 2006, the co-
8 conspirators, using the Josh Evans MySpace Account and the alias
9 "Josh Evans," told M.T.M., in substance, that the world would be a
10 better place without M.T.M. in it.

11 Overt Act 11: On or about October 16, 2006, after learning
12 that M.T.M. had killed herself, defendant DREW caused the Josh
13 Evans MySpace Account to be deleted.

14 Overt Act 12: On or about October 16, 2006, after learning
15 that M.T.M. had killed herself, defendant DREW directed a juvenile
16 who had knowledge of the Josh Evans MySpace Account to "keep her
17 mouth shut" and to refrain from trying to access the Josh Evans
18 MySpace Account.

COUNTS TWO THROUGH FOUR

[18 U.S.C. §§ 1030(a)(2)(C), (c)(2)(B)(ii); §§ 2(a), (b)]

17. The Grand Jury repeats and re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 13, 15, and 16 of this Indictment as if fully set forth herein.

18. On or about the following dates, defendant DREW, using a computer in O'Fallon, Missouri, intentionally accessed and caused to be accessed a computer used in interstate and foreign commerce, namely, the MySpace servers located in Los Angeles County, California, within the Central District of California, without authorization and in excess of authorized access, and, by means of an interstate communication, obtained and caused to be obtained information from that computer to further tortious acts, namely, intentional infliction of emotional distress on M.T.M.:

COUNT	DATE	UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS
TWO	9/20/06	In violation of MySpace TOS, accessed MySpace servers to obtain information regarding M.T.M.
THREE	9/26/06	In violation of MySpace TOS, accessed MySpace servers to obtain information regarding M.T.M.

COUNT	DATE	UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS
FOUR	10/16/06	In violation of MySpace TOS, accessed MySpace servers to obtain information regarding M.T.M.

A TRUE BILL

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FOREPERSON

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