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## **U.S. Supreme Court Upholds Child Pornography Law**

Washington, DC – The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday upheld a 2003 federal law aimed at child pornography, concluding that a federal appeals court was wrong to find the law unconstitutionally vague.

In his opinion for the 7 to 2 majority, Justice Antonin Scalia wrote “Child pornography harms and debases the most defenseless of our citizens. Both the state and federal governments have sought to suppress it for many years, only to find it proliferating through the new medium of the Internet.”

The decision came in the case of *United States v. Williams*, in which a Florida man offered to share lewd photos of himself and his young daughter in an Internet chat room. He did not actually have pictures of his daughter but he did have 22 pornographic images of other children on his computer. Mr. Williams was convicted of one count of pandering under the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to End the Exploitation of Children Today (Protect) Act of 2003, which prohibits knowingly advertising or promoting “any material or purported material in a manner that reflects the belief, or that is intended to cause another to believe, that the material or purported material” is child pornography. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit threw out Mr. Williams conviction arguing that the law was vague and in violation of the First Amendment.

Last June, Stop Child Predators joined other child advocacy organizations in a friend of the Court brief in the case, including the Jessica Marie Lunsford Foundation, The Joyful Child Foundation, The KlaasKids Foundation and the National Law Center for Children and Families.

Stop Child Predators is a non-profit organization that prevents the sexual exploitation of children and protects the rights of crime victims. We achieve these goals by bringing together a team of policy experts, law enforcement officers, community leaders, and parents to launch state-by-state campaigns to educate lawmakers and the public about policy changes that will protect America’s children from sexual predators. For more information, please visit our website at [www.stopchildpredators.org](http://www.stopchildpredators.org), or call (202) 234-0090.