

Medford man gets 7 years in Web sting

By [The Associated Press](#)
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A Medford man has been sentenced to seven years in federal prison after he was convicted in a Texas court of interstate travel with intent to engage in sexual acts with a minor.

Richard Hoyt Wales, 60, was sentenced Wednesday in U.S. District Court in El Paso, after pleading guilty to the charge in March. He had been arrested by members West Texas Cyber Crimes Task Force in October as part of an undercover operation.

U.S. District Judge Frank Montalvo ordered 10 years of supervision after Wales completes his prison term.

Wales admitted to using an Internet chat room to arrange for sex with who he thought was a 12-year-old girl. Actually, he was communicating with an undercover police officer posing as the girl's mother.

Last September, Wales began the online relationship and expressed a desire to travel to El Paso to meet the minor child and have sex with both the mother and the minor child. When he arrived, he was arrested outside the El Paso International Hostel and charged with coercion and enticement of a minor for the purpose of engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

The West Texas Cyber Crimes Task Force includes members from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, El Paso Police Department and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.