

**Feds: Douglas DA violated porn laws: By [Steve Visser](#) The Atlanta Journal-Constitution Published on: 07/12/07**

Douglas County District Attorney David McDade violated federal law when he distributed a videotape from a rape and child molestation case to legislators and journalists, the U.S. attorney's office said Wednesday.

U.S. Attorney David Nahmias said federal law prohibited distributing the videotape because it depicted minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct and warned that people who had received it would be in violation of federal child pornography laws.

The videotape was of the raunchy party in a Douglasville hotel room that led to the conviction of Genarlow Wilson on aggravated child molestation charges. Wilson was 17 at the time and the tape showed him receiving consensual oral sex from a 15-year-old girl. The video has been given to both reporters and legislators.

Federal law prohibits the distribution and receipt and possession of child pornography in most circumstances, Nahmias said. "These laws are intended to protect the children depicted in such images from the ongoing victimization of having their sexual activity viewed by others, potentially for years to come," Nahmias said.

McDade told The Associated Press he was required to release the tape under the state's Open Records Act because it was introduced as evidence at the trial. Nahmias, though, said federal law trumps the open records law.

Nahmias said his office issued the statement to end further distribution of the videotape and advised those who possessed it to destroy or return it.

State Sen. Emanuel Jones (D-Decatur) has called for an investigation to determine whether McDade violated federal law in distributing the videotape.