



ERIK NASARENKO
District Attorney

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Oxnard Man Convicted of Kidnapping with Intent to Commit Rape

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that a jury convicted James Lewis Apodaca (DOB 07/18/67), of Oxnard, of kidnapping with the intent to commit rape. Additionally, the jury found Apodaca guilty of robbery, assault with a deadly weapon on a peace officer, brandishing a deadly weapon to resist arrest, and possession of a controlled substance. The jury further found numerous sentence enhancements true. Apodaca had previously admitted convictions for prior serious and violent felony “strike” offenses.

On August 28, 2021, Apodaca was seen driving in the Oak View area with a young woman in the trunk of his car. Numerous witnesses notified law enforcement. A Ventura County Sheriff’s deputy saw Apodaca’s vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. Apodaca fled into the yard of a nearby residence where he armed himself with a metal pole. He brandished the pole and used it to assault the deputy. He was ultimately taken into custody and found in possession of methamphetamine. The 20-year-old victim was rescued uninjured. Investigation revealed that Apodaca had contacted the victim near a liquor store in the Ojai area. He took her cell phone, shoved her in the trunk of his car, and drove away. She was able to pull an emergency trunk release and signal for help.

Apodaca is scheduled to be sentenced on July 22, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. in courtroom 48 of the Ventura County Superior Court. Apodaca faces a maximum sentence of 126 years to life in prison, and a consecutive determinate term of six years in prison.

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The Ventura County District Attorney’s Office is the public prosecutor for the county’s 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 290 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.