



**ERIK NASARENKO**  
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
**NEWS RELEASE**



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## Thousand Oaks Man Sentenced for Sex Trafficking, Other Crimes Against Minors

VENTURA, Calif. - Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced that on May 2, 2023, Robert Ryan McGraa (DOB 06/01/81), of Thousand Oaks, was sentenced to 15 years 4 months state prison after pleading guilty to six felony charges related to human trafficking, possession of child sexual abuse material, and luring a minor for a lewd purpose. McGraa is a previously convicted sex offender and human trafficker.

In 2019, members of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office, Bureau of Investigation received a tip that McGraa had child sexual abuse material in his email account. After a lengthy and comprehensive investigation, investigators discovered that McGraa had numerous images of prepubescent child females being sexually assaulted by adult males. McGraa actively exchanged these types of images over the internet with other child sexual assault predators.

McGraa had multiple prior felony convictions of sexual crimes against minors. In 2005, he was arrested by the Ridgecrest Police Department for sex crimes, including unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor. Upon his conviction, he was sentenced to 16 months prison and ordered to register as a sex offender.

Another prior conviction initiated from an arrest of McGraa in 2016 by the Ventura County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff's detectives received an anonymous tip that McGraa was posting nude images of a 15-year-old child runaway. McGraa had arranged for several suspects to pay for sex with the child victim. McGraa pled guilty to commercial sex trafficking of a minor and was sentenced to five years prison.

Deputy District Attorney Rikole Kelly, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation Unit, prosecuted the case.

"Robert McGraa preyed on vulnerable individuals and exploited them for his own benefit," Kelly said. "Thanks to the courage of the victims, and the tenacity of Supervising District Attorney

Investigator Terry Dobrosky and our other law enforcement partners, our community is now safe from McGraa's dangerous and manipulative conduct.”

Deputy District Attorney Kelly is also a member of the Ventura County Human Trafficking Task Force (VCHTTF), which was established in 2019. Co-led by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office and Interface Children & Family Services, the task force works to prevent, identify, investigate, disrupt and prosecute human trafficking crimes in our community. In addition to holding perpetrators accountable, VCHTTF provides services and resources to victims, spreads community awareness and compiles county-level data and statistics.

Some indicators of sex trafficking may include sudden or unexplained changes in behavior, mood, or appearance; signs of physical abuse or neglect; poor hygiene or malnutrition; frequent absences from school or work; unexplained increase in cash or purchases; multiple cell phones; lack of control over their own finances; being accompanied by someone else at all times; and disconnection from friends and family.

Sex trafficking is not a victimless crime. Victims are often young girls and they are typically controlled through force or fear. Combating this problem is a top priority within the Ventura County District Attorney's Office. Community members are urged to become more aware of the pervasive problem of human trafficking and to call 911 to report suspicious activity. You can also contact the Forever Found R.E.A.C.H. Emergency Hotline for youth (805) 261-1212, or the Interface Human Trafficking Hotline for adults (800) 636-6738.

**Case: 2022022700**

**Defendant Information:**

Robert Ryan McGraa (DOB 06/01/81)  
Thousand Oaks

**Charges:**

- PC 236.1(b) - Human trafficking (commercial sex)
- PC 288.4(a)(2) - Luring a Minor for a Lewd Purpose (2 counts)
- PC 311.11(b) - Possession of Child Sexual Abuse Material (3 counts)

**Special Allegation:**

- CRC 4.421(b)(3) - Defendant served a prior prison term

**Sentence:**

15 years, 4 months



The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 300 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.