



ERIK NASARENKO
District Attorney

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Mandated Reporter Convicted and Sentenced for Failing to Report Sexual Assault

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that on August 10, 2022, Lisa Cohen (DOB 12/23/66), of Oak Park, pled guilty to the crime of being mandated to report elder abuse and failing to do so. Following her guilty plea, Judge Gilbert Romero sentenced Cohen to 120 days in the Ventura County Jail and 12 months probation.

Cohen was the director of the Royal Gardens Assisted Living Facility in Camarillo. It is alleged that on October 15, 2020, employee Joel Gonzales raped a 90-year-old dementia patient and attempted to rape another 82-year-old resident. Cohen was aware of these alleged crimes near the time they occurred and failed to report Gonzales's actions to law enforcement.

Two days after Cohen's failure to report, Gonzales is alleged to have attempted to kill a six-year-old child. Gonzales has been charged with crimes related to his actions and his case is pending in Ventura County Superior Court.

Under the law, a mandated reporter is any person who has assumed care or custody of an elder or dependent adult, regardless of whether they receive compensation. Elder or dependent adult care custodians, health practitioners, clergy members, employees of Adult Protective Services, law enforcement, and all officers and employees of financial institutions are mandated to report elder abuse. Mandated reporters must make a report when in the scope of employment, they know of or observe abuse or neglect, are told by an elder or dependent adult of abuse or neglect, or if they reasonably suspect abuse or neglect has occurred.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office.

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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.