



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



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**Sex Assault Kit Testing Grant Leads to Arrest of  
Colorado Resident in Multiple California Rapes**

Case #: 2021024415

VENTURA, Calif. - District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced that charges have been filed against a suspect accused of multiple sexual assaults in Southern California, including Ventura County.

Charles Edward Gaines III (DOB: 07/05/96) of Aurora, Colorado, was arrested by Aurora Police Department in August 2022 for a warrant related to an extortion case handled by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). During that arrest, a DNA profile was obtained from Gaines which linked him to rapes committed against a Simi Valley victim and two victims in Los Angeles County. Gaines is also accused of attempting to rape a fourth victim in Los Angeles County. All crimes occurred in either 2019 or 2020.

The prosecution of Gaines was made possible, in part, thanks to the creation of a cold case sexual assault prosecutions funded through a Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) grant awarded to the County of Ventura by U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Affairs.

“Having the funding to support a cold case sexual assault unit within the District Attorney’s Office is essential to addressing cases that have gone unsolved,” said District Attorney Erik Nasarenko. “We thank the Department of Justice for this grant, and we believe this is the first of many prosecutions of suspects who have committed sexual assault crimes against our residents.”

Senior Deputy District Attorney Brent Nibecker from the Ventura County District Attorney’s Office Sexual Assault Unit/Cold Case Prosecutions is the attorney assigned to the case. The investigation into Gaines’ crimes was handled by the Simi Valley Police Department (SVPD) and LAPD.

Gaines appeared in court today, October 18, 2022. The case has been continued for arraignment and a bail hearing/detention motion to November 30, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 12. Gaines remains in custody without bail.

Additional victims or anyone who witnessed crimes committed by Gaines are asked to contact SVPD Detective Jessica Getchius at 805-583-6914.



**Defendant Information:**

Charles Edward Gaines III

Aurora Colorado.

**Charges Filed:**

- (LA COUNTY) PC 287(c)(2)(A) (oral copulation by force),
- (LA COUNTY) PC 286(c)(2)(A) (sodomy by force),
- (LA COUNTY) PC 243.4(a) (sexual battery by restraint) with the use of a deadly weapon,
- (LA COUNTY) PC 261(a)(2) (rape) with the use of a deadly weapon,
- (VTA COUNTY) PC 236.1(c)(1) (human trafficking of a minor)
- (VTA COUNTY) PC 261(a)(2) (rape) with the use of a deadly weapon, against a minor victim,
- (LA COUNTY) PC 664/261(a)(2) (attempted rape)