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VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

NEWS RELEASE



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Student Charged in Connection with Threatening Videos Targeting Buena High

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that a Buena High School student has been charged in connection with threatening videos that were circulated online and appeared to target students at the school. The 14-year-old is charged with one felony count of conspiracy to threaten to commit a crime that may result in death or great bodily injury to another person, or persons at a school and one misdemeanor count of making a criminal threat.

The Ventura Police Department began investigating on the evening of September 14, 2026, after receiving information about videos depicting the Cat in the Hat character making threats toward students at the school. Investigators determined the videos were connected to three Buena High School students, who were subsequently arrested. At this time, only one minor's case has been submitted to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

Senior Deputy District Attorney and Juvenile Unit Supervisor, Maureen Byrne, is prosecuting the case.

The minor is scheduled to be arraigned on September 18, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. in courtroom J4 at the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Center in Oxnard.