



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF KERN

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

November 13, 2023
MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
DDA Leanne Wilder
(661) 868-2766

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by CJZ
Press Release #23-83

**Solano Found Guilty of Arranging to Meet Minor to Commit Sexual Offense
During Law Enforcement Undercover Operation**
People v. Stephen Solano: Kern County Superior Court Case BF191343A

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction. On November 8, 2023, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Leanne Wilder, a Kern County jury found Stephen Solano, 56, guilty of arranging to meet a minor to engage in lewd and lascivious acts.

In August of 2022, the Kern County Sheriff's Department conducted an undercover decoy operation to suppress the exploitation of children on social media dating apps. Detectives assigned to the Special Victim's Unit of the Sheriff's Department were operating a decoy dating profile on a dating platform and posed as a 16-year-old female. Solano began to chat with the decoy profile, was informed of her age, and agreed to meet the minor for sex.

When Solano arrived at the agreed upon meeting location, Kern County Sheriff Detectives intercepted the defendant and placed him under arrest. Solano's car was searched where detectives located condoms and the phone used to communicate with the decoy profile posing as a 16-year-old female.

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "In today's digital era, the safety of children is more crucial than ever. We urge parents to be vigilant and closely monitor their children's digital activity."

Sentencing is set for December 12, 2023, before the Honorable John R. Brownlee. Solano faces 3 years in prison and lifetime registration as a sex offender.

Stephen Solano:

