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Jury Finds Kendall McDaniel Guilty of Human Trafficking of a Minor
People v. Kendall McDaniel: Kern County Superior Court Case BF192564A

(Bakersfield) - District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a verdict in a significant case today. In a case presented by Deputy District Attorney Janae Knallay, a Kern County jury found defendant Kendall McDaniel guilty of human trafficking of a minor.

This case resulted from an undercover investigation conducted by the Bakersfield Police Department into local human traffickers. From December 6 to December 9, 2022, McDaniel recruited what he believed to be a 16-year-old female to engage in acts of prostitution in Bakersfield. He was actually speaking to an undercover Vice Detective from the Bakersfield Police Department, who was working as part of a task force.

During this undercover investigation, McDaniel made hundreds of posts to social media to solicit and recruit the decoy to be a prostitute for him. During those posts, McDaniel promised the undercover decoy they would “play on 89th”, a reference to a well-known location for prostitution in Los Angeles County, and “if you trap ryte I’ll have u in a spot and a whip”, offering her a residence and a vehicle if she was a prostitute for him.

On the day McDaniel arrived to meet the decoy at the bus station, McDaniel was apprehended by Vice detectives from the Bakersfield Police Department. Social media and cellular phone evidence revealed McDaniel was also receiving money from other trafficking victims as well.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction; “Human Trafficking is one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises in the world. We urge all parents and guardians to keep a close eye on their children, as this case is a reminder that human trafficking is in fact prevalent in our community. McDaniel deserves the maximum sentence permitted by the law to ensure that no more innocent children become victim of this horrendous crime.”

Sentencing is set for September 26, 2023 before Superior Court Judge Michael Bush. McDaniel faces an

upwards sentence of 24 years in prison.

Kendall McDaniel:

