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Dowdell Found Guilty of Trafficking Minor While Behind Bars
People v. Shante Dowdell: Kern County Superior Court Case BF190212A

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant human trafficking of a minor conviction today. On July 19, 2024, in a case presented by Deputy District Attorney Janae Knallay, a Kern County jury found defendant Shante Dowdell guilty of human trafficking of a minor, pimping of a minor, and pandering of a minor.

Between July 2021 and May 2022, while in custody for robbery, Dowell made numerous jail calls to the 16-year-old victim, encouraging her to commit acts of prostitution to enable her to put money on his books. Dowell told the victim which online sexual advertisement websites to post on, directed her towards another subject to “learn the game”, told her what times to “walk the blade” (an area in Los Angeles with a high concentration of prostitution), and asked her constantly to put money on his books. In one jail phone call, Dowell asked the victim “pimp game stronger over the phone huh.” Over the course of four months, the victim posted over \$2,000 on Dowell’s books.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “The ability of this criminal to victimize a child while incarcerated highlights the control traffickers often exert over their victims. I am grateful that this young girl is now safe from Dowdell's harm, and that he will be kept away from our community for a significant time.”

Sentencing is set for August 20, 2024, in Department 6 of the Kern County Superior Court before the Honorable Judge John R. Brownlee. Dowdell faces up to 24 years in prison plus lifetime sex offender registration.

Dowdell:

