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Human Trafficker Convicted, Faces Decades Behind Bars
People v. Darrell Meeken: Kern County Superior Court Case BF194908A

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant human trafficking conviction today. On August 29, 2024, in a case presented by Deputy District Attorney Janae Knallay, a Kern County jury found defendant Darrell Meeken guilty of the three felony charges: human trafficking of an adult by use of force, fear, or coercion, pimping, and pandering.

On April 23, 2024, the adult victim was contacted by the Bakersfield Police Department while working as a prostitute in Bakersfield. The defendant, Darrell Meeken called the victim several times during that contact. Cell phone evidence showed that Meeken threatened to assault the victim numerous times if she did not comply with his demands to participate in sexual acts. Further investigation revealed that Meeken assaulted the victim on numerous occasions, tracked the money she made from commercial sex work, advertised her online to potential sex buyers, arranged dates with sex buyers, and then kept the money from her prostitution.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented: “This conviction marks a crucial victory in the battle against human trafficking. By bringing those responsible to justice, we reinforce our commitment to protecting and upholding the safety of everyone in our community.”

Trial on prior convictions is set for September 10, 2024, in Department 2 of the Kern County Superior Court before the Honorable Judge Judith K. Dulcich. Meeken faces up to 40 years in prison plus lifetime sex offender registration.

Victims and survivors of human trafficking in Kern County are encouraged to contact the [Kern County Family Justice Center](#). There’s a center near you in Downtown Bakersfield or inside of the Lamont Courthouse. All services are free and there is no appointment necessary.

Darrell Meeken:

