



**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

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

KENNETH M. RUSSELL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

June 04, 2025
MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
SDDA Felicia Nagle
(661) 868-2740

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by CJZ
Press Release #25-63

Jury Finds Cates Guilty of Annoying or Molesting Child
People v. Jaylen Cates: Kern County Superior Court Case BX000966A

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a sexual misconduct conviction today. On May 30, 2025, in a case presented by Deputy District Attorney Spencer Scher, a Kern County jury found defendant Jaylen Cates guilty of the one misdemeanor charge of Annoying or Molesting a Child under 18 years old.

On November 06, 2024, the 11-year-old victim told the Bakersfield Police Department that Cates tried to hug the victim after he told her, “you must be cold because you’re showing skin.” Cates then approached the child as he said, “come here and give me a hug so I can keep you warm.” A nearby adult witnessed the interaction, noticed the victim was uncomfortable, and told the victim to stand with her while another witness called the police. Cates fled the scene but was located nearby and both the victim and the witnesses identified him as the suspect. A records check revealed that Cates is a transient, was on probation, is a registered sex offender due to a prior conviction for sexual battery.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “I commend the witness for stepping up to protect this innocent child and acting swiftly to prevent the situation from escalating. Individuals like Cates exploit the vulnerability of children, a disturbing and all-too-real threat in our community. His actions demand that he face the full extent of the law.”

Sentencing in this matter is set for June 25, 2025, in Department 11 of the Kern County Superior Court before the Honorable Judge Michael Caves. Cates faces up to a year in jail, probation and will be required to register as a sex offender.

Those who experience sexual misconduct in Kern County are encouraged to contact the Kern County Family Justice Center. All services are free and there is no appointment necessary. For more information, visit kcfjc.org.

Jaylen Cates:

