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Former Delano Police Department Chief Convicted of Sex Crime
People v. Mark DeRosia: Kern County Superior Court Case BM997021A

(Bakersfield) - On September 5, 2025, Mark Derosia, the former chief of Police of the Delano Police Department, entered a no contest plea to the sole count of Annoying or Molesting a Child Under the Age of 18 [Penal Code 647.6(a)(2)]. DeRosia was placed on probation for one year, must complete 240 hours of community service, and must attend counseling. Additionally, and perhaps most significantly, DeRosia must register as a sex offender for 10 years. This element of the case's resolution serves to enhance public safety by enabling law enforcement to monitor and supervise DeRosia.

In March of 2024, Kern County Sheriff's Detectives maintained a decoy profile of an age-altered 15-year-old juvenile on an online dating site. DeRosia initiated contact and discussed multiple sexual acts. The decoy informed DeRosia he was only 15-years-old, but DeRosia continued the discussion and encouraged the decoy to move to Michigan (where DeRosia resides) since Michigan's age of consent is 16-years-old.

DeRosia did not engage in an attempt to meet with the decoy in person, which is a critical legal element of most of the charges associated with similar operations and cases of this type. Furthermore, DeRosia did not send any sexually explicit photos to the minor, an element that would have allowed prosecutors to file felony charges against him.

Penal Code 288.2 requires the defendant to have sent harmful matter to a minor or person believed to be a minor that was either a pictorial or audio representation of something harmful. The communication of harmful matter in this case was via text, therefore, this statute was not applicable.

Penal Code 288.3 requires that any communication with a minor or person believed to be a minor be done with the intent to commit different sex offenses. In this case, since DeRosia did not pursue any meeting with the decoy, this statute was also inapplicable.

Penal Code 288.4 requires that a meeting be arranged with a minor or person believed to be a minor.

Since no arranging of a meeting ever occurred, this statute was also inapplicable.

Based on the evidence, the applicable charge in this case was the one count that DeRosia was convicted of earlier today. By statute, this charge is a misdemeanor and cannot be filed as a felony.