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**Johnson Found Guilty in Case Involving Undercover Operation Targeting
Internet Crimes Against Minors**
People v. Joshua Johnson: Kern County Superior Court Case BF196071A

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction. On April 22, 2026, a Kern County Jury convicted Defendant Joshua Johnson of Attempting to Contact a Minor for a Sexual Purpose and of Attempting to Meet a Minor for a Sexual Purpose. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Christine Antonios.

On August 12, 2023, Law Enforcement executed a multi-agency operation targeting internet crimes against minors. The Law Enforcement Task Force employed undercover officers posing as minors in an effort to identify anyone who attempts to contact or meet with a minor for a sexual purpose. During that operation, Defendant Joshua Johnson, then 38-years-old, contacted the undercover officer online and solicited a sex act. Believing that the undercover officer was a minor, Defendant Johnson agreed to meet the minor, purchased condoms on his way to the meeting, and arrived at the arranged location where he was apprehended by law enforcement.

Johnson was previously convicted of Statutory Rape in 2009 after he engaged in sexual intercourse with a fourteen-year-old victim.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Undercover operations aimed at identifying individuals who pose a threat to children are a critical form of proactive policing. They make it possible to detect and stop potential perpetrators before they can harm an actual child. In cases like Johnson's, where there is criminal history of targeting children, it is especially important to use every measure available to ensure that such offenses are addressed appropriately."

A sentencing date is scheduled for May 20, 2026, before the Honorable David R. Zulfa in Department 18 of the Kern County Superior Court. Under California law, the charges carry a punishment of up to 4 years in prison.

Joshua Johnson:

