



RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE
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DA'S OFFICE FILES CHARGES AGAINST THREE MEN INVOLVED IN A SIGNIFICANT CASE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING, CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, AND CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT

RIVERSIDE – Today, Feb. 17, 2015, Riverside County District Attorney Mike Hestrin announced that charges have been filed against three men for their involvement in a significant ring of human traffickers and child pornographers.

“The Riverside County Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement task force works on the front line to keep children in our county safe, and I applaud all the efforts of that task force,” Hestrin said. “The District Attorney’s Office is committed to doing everything we can do to ensure that those who prey upon our children are brought to justice and to ensure that our children are safe.”

John David Yoder, DOB: 4-24-71, of Desert Hot Springs, has been charged in case INF1500164 with one count each of oral copulation of a child under 14, human trafficking of a victim under 18, conspiracy, lewd acts with a child under 14, and aiding to avoid the arrest of another. Yoder entered pleas of not guilty to all charges at his arraignment at the Larson Justice Center in Indio on Feb. 9, 2015, and has a felony settlement conference scheduled on Feb. 19, 2015. If convicted as currently charged, Yoder faces a maximum of 35 years to life in prison.

Erick Alan Monsivais, DOB: 11-29-85, of Los Angeles, has been charged in case INF1500181 with four counts of sexual intercourse or sodomy with a victim 10 years old or younger, three counts of oral copulation by force or fear of a child under 14, and one count each of lewd acts on a minor under 14 by force or fear and of human trafficking of a victim under 18. Monsivais entered pleas of not guilty to all counts at his arraignment at the Larson Justice Center in Indio on Feb. 5, 2015, and has a felony settlement conference scheduled for Feb. 19, 2015. If convicted as currently charged, Monsivais faces a maximum of 167 years to life in prison.

William Clyde Thompson, DOB: 5-1-60, of Las Vegas, Nevada, is being charged on a criminal complaint filed today, Feb. 17, 2015, with one count each of sexual intercourse or sodomy with a victim 10 years old or younger, oral copulation or sexual penetration with a victim 10 or younger, sexual assault of a child under 14, lewd and lascivious acts against a child under 14, procurement of a child under 16 for lewd and lascivious acts, human trafficking of a victim under 18, use of a minor to perform prohibited acts, sending or bringing into the state child pornography, conspiracy to commit child pornography. There also will be a sentencing enhancement of multiple victims. Thompson is currently being held in federal custody in Nevada. Because of his federal case status, his arraignment in Riverside County has not yet been scheduled. If convicted as currently charged in Riverside County, Thompson faces a maximum sentence of 85 years to life in prison.

“The charges filed in this case are a stellar example of federal, state, and local law enforcement partners joining together to bring down those who commit unconscionable crimes against children,” said Robert Goetsch, assistant special agent in charge for Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Riverside. “Child sexual predators who believe they can pursue perverse behavior with impunity should be on notice – they cannot escape justice and there will be serious consequences for their actions.”

The Riverside County Sexual Assault and Felony Enforcement/Internet Crimes Against Children (SAFE/ICAC) task force began an investigation into the case on Jan. 28, 2015, after receiving information from the National Center of

Missing and Exploited Children about the arrest of Thompson in Nevada. Thompson had originally been arrested and charged in Nevada in January 2013 following in investigation by authorities there. However, Thompson failed to appear in court in September 2013 and was believed to have removed a GPS monitor placed on him while on house arrest in Nevada. Later in September 2013, Thompson was indicted in federal court on child pornography and child exploitation charges.

On Jan. 27, 2015, Thompson was arrested in Needles, Calif., by members of a Las Vegas, Nevada criminal apprehension team. Thompson had been using the alias of Tony Bailor. Among the items seized by authorities subsequent to the arrest was Thompson's cellular phone, on which was found the phone numbers for Yoder and Monsivais. During the investigation that followed, it was determined that Thompson also used the alias of Jason Brock. Investigators received information that Thompson has possibly recruited young boys to model by hanging out at skate parks and other venues frequented by teens and children.

On Jan. 30, 2015, investigators determined that Yoder had adopted sons and was a licensed foster care provider in Riverside County. It was also discovered that Yoder worked as a special education teacher's assistant at Desert Hot Springs High School in the Palm Springs Unified School District.

"Palm Springs Unified School District is cooperating completely with the District Attorney's Office and all law enforcement officials," said PSUSD Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Mauricio Arellano. "The individual has been placed on leave without pay pending the outcome of the trial. Since this is a personnel matter, the district cannot comment any further as personal matters are strictly confidential. The safety of all children in PSUSD remains our highest priority."

Susan von Zabern, the director of the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services said: "We are cooperating fully in the investigation to help the District Attorney hold individuals accountable for their actions."

Investigators found that in March 2014, there had been reports to the Desert Hot Springs Police Department of two men trying to solicit young boys at a skate park to do modeling. No one was identified or arrested at that time. SAFE task force investigators followed up on those reports and Yoder and Thompson have been identified as the two men.

On Jan. 30, 2015, Yoder was arrested at his Desert Hot Springs home subsequent to a search warrant. Investigators believe that Yoder was paid by Thompson to recruit minor boys to be photographed for use in child pornography

On Feb. 2, 2015, Monsivais was arrested in Los Angeles subsequent to a search warrant at his residence. Among the counts against Monsivais are charges of oral copulation by force or fear upon a child under 14. Those crimes reportedly happened during various trips to Orange County.

Investigators believe at least one underage boy was sexually abused by Thompson in Desert Hot Springs as well as in Orange and Los Angeles counties.

The cases against the three men are being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorneys William Robinson and Samantha Paixao.

The investigation is on-going and could lead to charges being filed against one or more additional defendants.

Authorities believe it is possible that there may be additional victims who investigators are not aware of. Anyone who believes they may have had suspicious or illegal contact with any of these defendants is asked to call the SAFE/ICAC task force toll-free at (866) SAFE595 or (866) 723-3595.