

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SEASIDE MAN SENTENCED TO THIRTY YEARS FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Jerry Nickens Stringer, Jr., age 29, of Seaside, was sentenced to a term of thirty years and 8 months for two counts of human trafficking, two counts of pandering, two counts of possession of child pornography, one count of using a minor to perform commercial sex acts and two counts of sexual exploitation of a child.

On June 12, 2016, a jury found Stringer guilty after listening to the testimony of events occurring June 9, 2015 through June 11, 2015 when two seventeen- year old girls accepted a ride from Stringer, "a friend of a friend", to visit friends and go to the beach on the Monterey Peninsula from Sacramento. However, Stringer instead drove the girls to East Market Street and Kern Avenue in Salinas and coerced them to walk the streets and make money. Stringer also transported the girls to his mother's apartment in Seaside where he posed and photographed the victims in sexual positions. These photographs were then used by Stringer to create advertisements soliciting for sex on a website called Backpage. Stringer then rented a local Seaside motel room for the victims to exchange sex for money from persons responding to the ad.

Both victims, now 19-years-old, told the jury how one young man answering the advertisement responded by buying them food and offering to help them get away. The following day, when Stringer transported the girls back to East Market Street area to make money, the girls took the opportunity to call the young man who advised them to walk to Hartnell College to hide amongst the student body until they could get help. Once at Hartnell College, a family friend accepted their call and agreed to pick them up.

Jane Doe 1 provided a letter to Judge Julie Culver for Stringer's sentencing. Her statement detailed how she never thought this could happen to her. She indicated she was scared and felt forced to comply with Stringer's orders. She described feeling depressed and can't get what happened out to her of her head, and wants other girls to be safe.

Judge Culver stated that Stringer was convicted of some of the most abhorrent behavior that our society deems illegal. Culver went on to say that Stringer preyed on young, vulnerable girls who were taken from their hometown area into an unknown area for his own profit. In choosing the appropriate sentence, the court stated that Stringer exerted much time and effort for several days in an attempt to successfully traffick the young girls.

Stringer received a term of fifteen years, eight months in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, which was then doubled for a total sentence of 30 years, eight months due to a prior conviction for robbery under California's Three Strikes Law. Additionally, he must register for the rest of his life as a sex offender and was given a restraining order prohibiting contact with Jane Doe 1 and Jane Doe 2 for a period of ten years.

If anyone suspects human trafficking or finds themselves being forced to engage in any activity and cannot leave- whether it is acts of commercial sex or labor – text 233-733 (Be Free) or call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888. These hotlines are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and are toll free.