



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
TODD SPITZER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

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Orange County Sheriff's Deputy Charged with Sexually Assaulting Female Inmates, Showing Pornographic Videos of Himself

SANTA ANA, Calif. – An Orange County Sheriff's Deputy has been charged with sexually assaulting two female inmates, including directing them to engage in sexual activity, while assigned to work at the Theo Lacy Facility in Orange.

Arcadio Rodriguez, 30, of Stanton, pleaded not guilty today to one misdemeanor count of sexual battery, one misdemeanor count of a detention facility employee engaging in sexual activity with a confined consenting adult and one misdemeanor count of possession of a cell phone in a correctional facility.

Rodriguez faces a maximum sentence of 18 months in the Orange County Jail if convicted on all counts.

The deputy is accused of establishing an inappropriate relationship with two female inmates incarcerated at the Theo Lacy Facility, including sexually assaulting the inmates on multiple occasions by touching them over their jail uniforms and showing them pornographic videos of himself while they were in their housing locations.

The assaults are believed to have begun in May 2022. Rodriguez was arrested after the Orange County Sheriff's Department launched an investigation after discovering communications regarding inappropriate sexual behavior between by a deputy toward a female inmate.

"The wellbeing of people incarcerated in our jails is an incredible responsibility that goes far beyond the simple minimum of physical safety," said Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer. "Whether they are awaiting trial or are serving their sentence, inmates are completely dependent on Sheriff's deputies and other jail staff for everything from food and medication to clothing. To have a sworn deputy sheriff betray his oath of office to serve and protect by preying on vulnerable incarcerated individuals for his own sexual gratification is appalling. These women were awaiting trial and had no way of escaping a predator who literally held the keys to their captivity and directed them to perform sexual acts at his every whim. This is an embarrassment to the badge and to all the hardworking law enforcement professionals who carry out their duties lawfully each and every day."

California law only allows prosecutors to charge a misdemeanor when a detention facility employee engages in sexual activity with a confined adult over the clothes instead of skin to skin. Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer is seeking a change to state law to allow prosecutors to charge the behavior as a felony or a misdemeanor.

Deputy District Attorney David McMurrin of Special Prosecutions is prosecuting this case.

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