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CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

MYSPACE PREDATOR TO STAND TRIAL ON 135 COUNTS

RIVERSIDE – An Orange County man must stand trial on 135 felony counts related to crimes he committed involving dozens of underage victims he targeted primarily through the social networking Web site, MySpace.

Joshua David Threlkeld, DOB: 3-19-77, of Orange was held to answer on 112 counts today, Feb. 16, 2010, by Judge John Molloy. The judge previously ordered Threlkeld to stand trial on the other 23 counts on Feb. 8, 2010, the first day of the two-day preliminary hearing.

Threlkeld is scheduled to be arraigned on the 135 counts on March 24, 2010, in Dept. 42 at the Hall of Justice in Riverside. He faces multiple life sentences if convicted.

The victims, who range in age from 11 to 17, are from five California counties (Riverside, San Bernardino, Orange, Los Angeles and Shasta) as well as 15 other states as far away as New York and Florida. The crimes date back to at least August of 2007. A majority of the victims are from Riverside County and were living in the areas of Moreno Valley, Hemet, Palm Springs, Corona, Winchester and Romoland when victimized.

Based on the evidence, Threlkeld almost always began his scheme by posing on MySpace as a 13-old-girl named "Sara" who stated she was a model for a photographer named "Josh" and referred the underage victims to him. Threlkeld then solicited underage girls from across the county via the Web site to send him nude photographs, which many victims did. Even in cases in which the underage girls did not send him nude photos, Threlkeld is still charged with communicating with a minor with the intent of having them send him a nude photo.

Threlkeld is also charged with kidnap for rape and aggravated sexual assault of a minor for taking a 13-year-old victim to a home belonging to one of his friends in Palm Springs reportedly for a photo shoot but instead sexually assaulted the girl.

Crimes committed by Threlkeld reportedly happened at that Palm Springs home as well as his residence in Orange and possibly another location in the Hemet/San Jacinto area.

The case, RIF150044, is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Robert Hightower.

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