



CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 7, 2010

FORMER RIVERSIDE COUNTY CPS WORKER MUST STAND TRIAL ON CHARGES HE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED TEEN BOY HE SUPERVISED

RIVERSIDE – A former Riverside County Department of Child Protective Services employee was ordered today, April 7, 2010, to stand trial for the false imprisonment and sexual assault of a teenage boy he supervised.

Sean Lamont Birdsong, 38, of Riverside is charged with one count each of false imprisonment, sexual assault with the intent to commit rape or sodomy, lewd acts with a child, and felony child endangerment.

At a preliminary hearing today at the Hall of Justice in Riverside, a Superior Court judge ruled there was enough evidence for Birdsong to stand trial as charged. If convicted, Birdsong faces eight years in prison.

Birdsong was arrested on Sept, 22, 2009, and was released on \$50,000 bail. But on March 25, a court hearing was held because the teen victim in the case reported to authorities that Birdsong had called him and made veiled threats. The boy testified at the hearing after which a judge ordered Birdsong's previous bail revoked, raised the bail to \$250,000 and remanded Birdsong into the custody of the Sheriff's Department.

The criminal investigation began Sept, 22, 2009, when Riverside police received a report of possible child molestation. The then-15-year-old victim told a detective that Birdsong had placed him in a foster home in Rubidoux the day before, but then Birdsong called the boy to tell him that he had found a better placement home. Birdsong instructed the boy to sneak out of the foster home and meet him down the street, which he did. Birdsong was waiting in his Riverside County van and picked him up. Birdsong drove to a liquor store where he purchased a bottle of Bacardi 151, then headed to his Palm Avenue apartment.

At the apartment, Birdsong insisted the boy drink some Bacardi and Coke, but the victim refused. Birdsong then told the boy he had a gun and he had better drink with him. The victim, fearing for his life, began drinking the alcohol. The victim told police Birdsong touched him sexually and then backed him up against a wall and continued to sexually assault him. The teen said he was scared and told Birdsong he needed to go outside for a cigarette. Once outside, the victim told a woman in the apartment complex he needed help and police were called.

The case, RIF152916, is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney William Robinson.