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**Vasquez Found Guilty of Contacting a Minor to Commit Sexual Offense:
Revealed by Undercover Law Enforcement Operation**
People v. Julio Vasquez: Kern County Superior Court Case BF182235A

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction. On March 25, 2024, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Michael A. Morea, a Kern County jury found Julio Vasquez guilty of attempting to contact a minor to engage in lewd and lascivious behavior and going to meet a person he believed to be a minor to engage in lewd and lascivious behavior.

Deputies from the Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) Sexual Assault Unit conducted an undercover decoy operation to suppress the exploitation of children on social media dating apps. On July 5, 2020, 37-year-old Vasquez contacted a deputy posing as an underage male on an app. During this initial contact, the decoy represented being a 13-year-old. Over the following days, Vasquez made escalating sexually explicit messages to the decoy. As Vasquez communicated with the decoy for the next two months, he described his desire to meet for the purpose of engaging in sexual activities.

On August 23, 2020, Vasquez formulated a plan to meet with the decoy for sexual purposes at a local park. That afternoon, Vasquez arrived at the designated location, whereupon he was arrested by KCSO deputies who confirmed his identity as the individual sending the sexually explicit messages. Upon search, deputies found condoms on his person.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction, stating; "The accessibility of technology is giving sexual predators more access to children in our community than ever before. These proactive law enforcement measures are crucial for identifying and stopping predators before harm is done."

Sentencing is set for April 24, 2024, in Department 11 of the Kern County Superior Court before the Honorable Judge Elizabet Rodriguez. Vasquez faces up to 3 years in prison and lifetime sex offender registration.

Julio Vasquez:

