



# ERIK NASARENKO District Attorney

## NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Rafael Orellana  
Title: Senior Deputy District Attorney  
Telephone: (805) 654-2716  
Email: [Rafael.Orellana@Ventura.org](mailto:Rafael.Orellana@Ventura.org)

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### **Oxnard Man Sentenced to Life in Prison for Kidnapping with Intent to Commit Rape**

*VENTURA, California* – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that James Lewis Apodaca (DOB 07/18/67), of Oxnard, was sentenced by Judge Ryan Wright to 75 years to life in prison, plus six additional years for kidnapping with intent to commit rape, robbery, assault on a peace officer, and possession of methamphetamine.

On August 28, 2021, numerous witnesses observed Apodaca driving in the Oak View area with a young woman in the trunk of his car. The witnesses notified law enforcement. A Ventura County Sheriff's deputy located Apodaca's vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. Apodaca fled into the yard of a nearby residence where he armed himself with a metal pole. He brandished the pole and used it to assault the deputy. He was ultimately taken into custody and found in possession of methamphetamine. The 20-year-old victim was rescued uninjured. The investigation revealed that Apodaca had contacted the victim near a liquor store in the Ojai area. He took her cell phone, shoved her in the trunk of his car, and drove away with her. She was able to pull an emergency trunk release and signal for help.

On June 16, 2022, a jury found Apodaca guilty of kidnapping with the intent to commit rape, robbery, assault with a deadly weapon on a peace officer, brandishing a deadly weapon to resist arrest, and possession of a controlled substance. The jury further found numerous sentence enhancements to be true. Apodaca had previously admitted convictions for prior serious and violent felony strike offenses, and he was sentenced pursuant to California's Three Strikes law.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 290 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.