



ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

NEWS RELEASE



Follow us @VenturaCountyDA
DA.VenturaCounty.gov

Contact: Joey Buttitta
Title: Communications Manager/PIO
Phone: (805) 767-3400
Email: Joey.Buttitta@venturacounty.gov

Approved: SW
Date: January 16, 2026
Release No.: 26-010

Oxnard Man Pleads Guilty in Two Cases Involving Possession of Child Sexual Abuse Material

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Gary Steven Daniel II (DOB 09/21/78), of Oxnard, pleaded guilty on January 15, 2026, in two cases involving his possession of child sexual abuse material (CSAM). These convictions included admissions that he had previously been convicted of possessing CSAM, was a California sexual offender registrant, and had been released on bail when the second crime occurred. In total, Daniel pleaded guilty to three felony counts of possession or control of CSAM.

Daniel has a documented history of CSAM offenses dating back to 2015, when he was convicted in Missouri of possessing CSAM. In 2019, a Ventura County jury convicted him again of possessing CSAM in California. Because of his prior conviction, he was sentenced to six years in state prison in 2019. After his release, District Attorney investigators arrested Daniel in July 2024, for a new CSAM offense. During that investigation, Daniel attempted to avoid detection by storing CSAM in cloud-based accounts and accessing them through a burner phone. Investigators identified and traced the cloud accounts, where they discovered gigabytes of CSAM. Daniel posted \$50,000 bail and was awaiting trial on the 2024 case when he was arrested again.

Between October and December 2025, the Ventura County District Attorney's Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Unit received four CyberTip reports from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children involving Daniel. Records obtained by District Attorney investigators showed he was again storing CSAM. On December 30, 2025, investigators served a search warrant at Daniel's residence in the City of Oxnard. He was arrested by members of the District Attorney's Office Bureau of Investigation Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Unit, working in collaboration with the Oxnard Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Howard Wise, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Special Prosecutions Fraud and Technology Crimes Unit, prosecuted the cases.

"The Task Force that took down Gary Daniel II works tirelessly to track down those who sexually exploit children," Mr. Wise said. "They are exposed to the worst type of images every day, but they nevertheless show up ready to make sure justice is done."

Daniel is scheduled to be sentenced on February 17, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 12 of the Ventura County Superior Court. He remains in custody pending sentencing with bail set at \$500,000. Daniel is facing up to 8 years and 8 months in state prison.

Defendant Information:

Gary Steven Daniel II (DOB 09/21/78)
Oxnard

Case: 2025032653

Charges pled guilty to:

- PC 311.11(a) - Possession or control of child sexual abuse material

Special allegations admitted:

- PC 311.11(b) – Possession or control of child sexual abuse material while being a registered sex offender
- PC 12022.1(b) – Commission of a felony after release on bail
- CRC 4.421(a)(3) – Victim was vulnerable
- CRC 4.421(a)(8) – The manner in which the crime was carried out
- CRC 4.421(b)(2) – The defendant's prior convictions
- CRC 4.421(b)(3) – The defendant has served a prior prison term
- CRC 4.421(b)(5) – Defendant's prior performance was unsatisfactory

Case: 2024014303

2024014303

Charges pled guilty to:

- (2 counts) PC 311.11(a) – Possession or control of child sexual abuse material

Special allegations admitted:

- PC 311.11(b) – Possession or control of child sexual abuse material while being a registered sex offender
- CRC 4.421(a)(10) – The crime involved a large quantity of contraband
- CRC 4.41(a)(8) – The manner in which the crime was carried out
- CRC 4.421(a)(3) – Victim was vulnerable
- CRC 4.421(b)(3) – The defendant has served a prior prison term
- CRC 4.421(b)(5) – Defendant's prior performance was unsatisfactory
- CRC 4.421(b)(4) – The defendant was on probation or parole when the crime was committed

