



ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

NEWS RELEASE



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

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Oxnard Man Sentenced for 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, was sentenced on February 17, 2026, to seven years, four months in state prison for possession of child sexual abuse material (CSAM). He had pleaded guilty on January 15, 2026, in two cases involving CSAM possession. 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.

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.

"Since 2015, Mr. Daniel became increasingly sophisticated in his quest to obtain CSAM," Mr. Wise said. "However, the Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Unit of our Bureau of Investigation was one step ahead to bring Mr. Daniel to justice."

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 of possessing CSAM in California. Because of his prior conviction, he was sentenced to six years in state prison.

After his release, District Attorney investigators arrested Daniel in July 2024, for a new CSAM offense. The 2024 investigation revealed that Daniel was attempting 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 hundreds of CSAM images.

Daniel posted \$50,000 bail in the 2024 case and was awaiting trial when he was arrested again. Between October and December 2025, the Ventura County District Attorney's Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Unit received CyberTip reports from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children involving Daniel. Records obtained by District Attorney investigators showed

Daniel was again storing CSAM. On December 30, 2025, investigators served a search warrant at Daniel's residence. 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.

"We were able to put this case together because of the great partnership we have with the Oxnard Police Department and the dogged work of our investigators," said Chief Investigator Scott Whitney.

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

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

