



ERIK NASARENKO
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE



Follow us @VenturaCountyDA
[DA.VenturaCounty.gov](https://www.DA.VenturaCounty.gov)

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

Approved: SW
Date: April 15, 2026
Release No.: 26-046

Ohio Man Convicted of Committing Forcible Rape While on Vacation in Oxnard

VENTURA Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Christopher Baum (01/11/67), of Fairlawn, Ohio, was convicted by a jury of one felony count of forcible rape. An aggravating factor that the crime involved great violence was also found to be true.

On October 14, 2018, the victim and Baum were staying together at an Oxnard hotel. Following an argument earlier in the day, the victim went to sleep and woke up in the middle of the night to Baum on top of her. He held her arms down and raped her despite repeated pleas to stop. After the assault, Baum fell asleep while the victim went to the restroom, where she experienced significant pain. She later disclosed the incident to friends and reported it to the Oxnard Police Department.

Deputy District Attorney Julia McAndrew, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Sexual Assault Unit, prosecuted the case.

"This verdict affirms that survivors of sexual violence have the right to be heard, believed, and protected, and that those who commit these crimes will be held accountable," Ms. McAndrew said. "It is my hope that this outcome brings the victim of this case a meaningful measure of justice."

Baum is scheduled to be sentenced on May 29, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. in courtroom 45 of the Ventura County Superior Court. Following the verdict, he was remanded into custody and is being held without bail. Baum faces a maximum of eight years in state prison.

Case: 2019025082

Defendant Information:

Christopher Baum (DOB 01/11/67)

Fairlawn, Ohio

Charges:

- PC 261(a)(2) – Forcible rape

Special allegations:

- CRC 4.421(a)(1) – The crime involved great violence

