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VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE



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Ma Family Criminal Enterprise Convicted in Prostitution & Money Laundering Case

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that four members of a family-run criminal enterprise were convicted by a jury for their involvement in the operation of illicit massage businesses, commercial sex operations and the laundering of proceeds through financial institutions, real estate and other assets.

The jury found Xiangwei Ma (DOB 07/15/70), Xiangdong Ma (DOB 09/10/72), Li Ma (DOB 02/18/66), and Ming Ma (DOB 10/18/85) guilty of several felony offenses related to the operation of the criminal enterprise.

Xiangwei Ma, identified as the head of the organization, was convicted of pimping, mortgage fraud, and nine counts of money laundering. Xiangdong Ma was convicted of pimping and five counts of money laundering. Li Ma was convicted of pimping and one count of money laundering. Ming Ma was convicted of pimping and two counts of money laundering.

Xiangwei Ma and Ming Ma admitted that each offense involved planning, sophistication, or professionalism. Xiangwei Ma also admitted serving a prior prison term and that the mortgage fraud involved a taking of great monetary value. The court found the planning, sophistication, or professionalism aggravating factor true as to Li Ma, and a jury found the same factor true as to Xiangdong Ma.

Xiangwei Ma, Li Ma, and Ming Ma admitted to engaging in a pattern of related criminal profiteering acts committed for financial gain as part of organized criminal activity. A jury found the same allegation true beyond a reasonable doubt as to Xiangdong Ma. The admissions and jury finding establish the basis for forfeiture of the defendants' interests in more than \$1.25 million in seized currency, bank funds, and life insurance cash values.

A fifth defendant, Jaime Calderon (DOB 11/23/61), previously pled guilty on August 11, 2023, to money laundering. He was sentenced to Ventura County Jail.

The investigation began in 2020 after multiple law enforcement agencies received anonymous “whistleblower” letters reporting suspected prostitution and human trafficking at massage establishments in Ventura County, including Miracle Massage in Ventura and A+ Massage in Port Hueneme.

The subsequent investigation determined that Xiangwei Ma, her husband Ming Ma, her brother Xiangdong Ma, her sister Li Ma, and Li’s husband, Jaime Calderon, worked together to operate a commercial sex operation through massage businesses that served as fronts for the criminal enterprise. The businesses operated for more than a decade and generated substantial proceeds from illicit sexual activity.

Investigators determined that the defendants worked together to recruit and exploit women who were foreign nationals from China for commercial sex while presenting the businesses as legitimate massage establishments.

The investigation also uncovered efforts to conceal and move the proceeds through numerous financial institutions, life insurance policies, casinos and real estate transactions.

Xiangwei Ma had previously pled guilty to attempted pandering in Los Angeles County and served an 18-month prison sentence. During her incarceration, other members of the organization continued operating the massage businesses. After her release, investigators determined she resumed directing the businesses while avoiding being listed as an owner or manager.

Xiangwei Ma also used other individuals as nominal or “straw” owners to conceal her involvement in businesses and real estate. One example involved a Simi Valley residence on Crowne Oak Lane. Evidence showed that Xiangwei Ma made conflicting representations about her employment and income in connection with the property and later sought a short sale. Calderon ultimately became the listed buyer in the transaction. Despite the terms of the sale requiring Xiangwei Ma to leave the property, she continued living there.

The investigation established that the defendants used proceeds from the commercial sex operation and a network of financial and real estate transactions to conceal the source and ownership of the criminal proceeds.

“We are deeply grateful to the jurors for the extraordinary time, care, and hard work they devoted to this case,” said Senior Deputy District Attorney Rikole Kelly. “We also recognize the victim’s courage in testifying despite her fear, and the investigators whose years of persistent work brought this case to justice. Together, they held accountable defendants who believed they could exploit women without consequence.”

All four defendants were remanded into custody following the verdicts. Xiangwei Ma will be sentenced on October 23, 2026. She faces 17 years in state prison. Xiangdong Ma will also be sentenced on October 23, 2026, and faces 13 years in state prison. Li Ma is scheduled to be sentenced on November 2, 2026, and faces 8 years and eight months in state prison. Ming Ma will be sentenced on November 4, 2026. He faces 11 years and four months in state prison.

“Illicit massage businesses are often fronts for human trafficking and pimping where victims are coerced into performing commercial sex work,” District Attorney Erik Nasarenko said. “This case demonstrates our commitment to use the full weight of this office to hold these offenders accountable.”

Since 2023, the Ventura County District Attorney’s Office has worked with the Ventura Police Department, Ventura County Human Trafficking Task Force, local law enforcement agencies and city governments through its Landlord Engagement Program, an effort to address illicit massage businesses operating throughout the county. The program focuses on educating property owners and managers about illicit activity occurring on their properties, encouraging compliance with local ordinances and pursuing legal remedies when property owners allow illegal activity to continue.

The program recognizes that illicit massage businesses can serve as fronts for organized commercial sex operations and human trafficking. By working directly with property owners and local partners, the District Attorney’s Office has disrupted the physical locations used by these criminal enterprises and prevented traffickers from simply relocating their operations to another property or jurisdiction.

If you have information regarding a local massage business and believe they may be involved in illicit activity, contact your local law enforcement agency. If it is an emergency, call 9-1-1.

Case: 2020033841



Xiangwei Ma (DOB 07/15/70)

Simi Valley

Charges convicted of:

- PC 266h(a) – Pimping
- PC 532f(a)(1) – Mortgage fraud
- PC 186.10(a) - Money laundering (9 counts)

Special allegations found true:

- CRC 4.421(a)(8) – The manner in which the crime was carried out indicates planning, sophistication, and professionalism.
- CRC 4.421(a)(9) - The taking was of great monetary value
- CRC 4.421(b)(3) – The defendant has served a prior prison term
- PC 186.10(c)(1)(B) – Transaction exceeding \$150,000



Xiangdong Ma (DOB 09/10/72)

Hacienda Heights

Charges convicted of:

- PC 266h(a) – Pimping
- PC 186.10(a) - Money laundering (5 counts)

Special allegations found true:

- CRC 4.421(a)(8) – The manner in which the crime was carried out indicates planning, sophistication, and professionalism.
- PC 186.10(c)(1)(B) – Transaction exceeding \$150,000



Li Ma (DOB 02/18/66)

Oxnard

Charges convicted of:

- PC 266h(a) – Pimping
- PC 186.10(a) - Money laundering

Special allegations found true:

- CRC 4.421(a)(8) – The manner in which the crime was carried out indicates planning, sophistication, and professionalism.
- PC 186.10(c)(1)(B) – Transaction exceeding \$150,000



Ming Ma (DOB 10/18/85)

Oxnard

Charges convicted of:

- PC 266h(a) – Pimping
- PC 186.10(a) - Money laundering (2 counts)

Special allegations found true:

- CRC 4.421(a)(8) – The manner in which the crime was carried out indicates planning, sophistication, and professionalism.
- PC 186.10(c)(1)(B) – Transaction exceeding \$150,000