



ERIK NASARENKO
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE



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**Ventura Man Charged with Possession of Artificial Intelligence
Generated Child Sexual Abuse Material**

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Christopher Jon McAulay (DOB 11/11/75), of Ventura, has been charged with two felony counts related to his alleged possession of artificial intelligence (AI) generated child sexual abuse material (CSAM). McAulay faces one count of possession of obscene child sexual abuse material and one count of possession of child pornography for commercial consideration.

McAulay made his first court appearance on October 13, 2026, and pled not guilty to all charges.

Between September 2025 and November 2025, District Attorney investigators were alerted to Cybertips from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). Those Cybertips identified CSAM uploaded to a social media messaging platform from different accounts. All of the accounts allegedly led back to the same IP address located in Ventura County. Investigators determined those accounts allegedly belonged to McAulay. Investigators served a search warrant at McAulay's home and found two hard drives allegedly containing AI-generated CSAM depicting young girls.

Deputy District Attorney Tessa McCarty, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Sexual Assault Unit, is prosecuting the case.

McAulay is scheduled to return to court for an early disposition conference on December 2, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 12 of the Ventura County Superior Court. He was released from custody by the court on his own recognizance.

If you believe you may have additional information relevant to the Christopher McAulay case, please contact District Attorney Investigator Randy Haumann at (805) 383-4798.

In 2024, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 1831 into law, expanding California's definition of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) to explicitly include AI-generated images and videos. The law strengthened existing prohibitions against the production, possession and distribution of CSAM to address advances in artificial intelligence technology, including digitally created or manipulated images that depict minors in sexually explicit situations. As a result, AI-generated CSAM can be prosecuted under California law, even when the material is not a traditional photograph of an actual child. The legislation, authored by Assemblymember Marc Berman and co-sponsored by Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko, closed a legal gap and recognized that AI-generated sexual imagery can cause real harm by exploiting and revictimizing children.

Case #: 2026029396

Court #:26CF102235

Defendant Information:

Christopher Jon McAulay (DOB 11/11/75)

Ventura

Charges:

- PC 311.11(a)(2) – Possession of obscene child sexual abuse material
- PC 311.2(b) – Possession of child pornography for commercial consideration