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PRESS RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2011

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SECURES FIRST CONVICTION UNDER NEW INTERNET IMPERSONATION LAW

LOS ANGELES – The City Attorney's Cyber Crime and Child Abuse Prevention Unit today secured the first conviction under the State's new impersonation law. A Los Angeles man was charged with creating numerous fake accounts on social networking sites in an attempt to harass a 16-year old former girlfriend. Deputy City Attorney Tracy Webb successfully prosecuted the case.

Jesus Felix, 22, entered a plea of no contest to two counts of violating the new impersonation code section and one count of making harassing phone calls. Judge Yvette Verestegui sentenced Felix to five years probation, 30 days CalTrans work, one year in jail (suspended) on the condition he remain enrolled in anger management classes, counseling and sex therapy classes. Felix was also ordered to stay away from the victim and have no internet access for the duration of his probation.

Between January and March 2011, Felix created 130 Facebook pages and numerous Craigslist listings using photographs of his former girlfriend. The victim's mother discovered several online profiles containing her daughter's contact information as well as sexually explicit photographs. In addition, Defendant Felix called and harassed the victim's mother several times via cell phone.

Law enforcement officers notified the Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce and the District Attorney's Office referred the case for prosecution. The new internet impersonation statute became law on January 1, 2011.

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