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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: May 30, 2014
Re: Unlawful sexual intercourse
With a minor, Convicted

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Ronald Herbert Loney, age 47, of Modesto was sentenced to 12 years in state prison for unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor, oral copulation, penetration by foreign object, and harmful matter sent to a minor. Loney had previously entered a plea of no contest on March 3, 2014 and admitted having been convicted previously of first degree burglary in 1999, a ‘strike.’ Deputy District Attorney Annette Rees prosecuted the case for the People.

In November of 2012, Loney quickly befriended the 16-year-old victim who lived in his apartment building and began a sexual relationship that included texting, photos, and sexual conduct. The victim would go to Loney’s apartment where he would provide alcohol and drugs to her, show pornography and engage in sexual behavior with her. “This was classic predatory behavior,” Rees stated. “He developed a relationship with this young girl that she thought was love. He instructed her, groomed her behavior, and took advantage of her.” This victim was a vulnerable and easily accessible young girl who would do whatever he asked of her.” After the victim broke off the relationship, Loney pursued her, became increasingly insistent, and the victim reported the conduct to law enforcement.

The defendant’s crimes are serious felonies and considered “strikes” under California law. Loney will have to register for life as a sex offender, and will be considered for lifetime commitment as a sexually violent predator.