

*Jackie Lacey*  
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NEWS RELEASE

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**Volunteer Teacher Charged with Lewd Acts  
with Children**

A 30-year-old volunteer teacher accused of lewd acts with two boys was charged today, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Steven Joseph Mesplou (dob 11/29/84) of Harbor City has been charged with six felonies: four counts of lewd act upon a child and two counts of contact with minor for sexual offense in case NA101113.

The defendant is scheduled to be arraigned Feb. 20 at the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Long Beach, Department SO1.

Prosecutors said Mesplou, a volunteer teacher at St. Margaret Mary Alcoque Catholic Parish in Lomita, is accused of meeting a teenage boy on an online video chat website.

While on the website, the defendant allegedly pretended to be a 15-year-old girl and had his male victim perform sexual acts for him. During this time, Mesplou also instructed the teenage boy's 8-year-old brother to expose himself, according to prosecutors.

The victims' mother learned about what occurred and subsequently contacted police.

Authorities arrested Mesplou on Jan. 21 in connection with the allegations. The defendant has posted bond.

If convicted as charged, the defendant faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in state prison.

The case is being investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department.

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### **About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety.