

Jackie Lacey

District Attorney
<http://da.lacounty.gov>



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Ricardo Santiago
Public Information Officer
213-257-2000
RSantiago@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOoffice

Nov. 30, 2016

Convicted Rapist Sentenced to 520 Years to Life for Abusing Young Girl

A 72-year-old convicted rapist was sentenced today to 520 years to life in state prison for sexually assaulting a 9-year-old girl under his care, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Ani Bailey said John Adam Whitsell (dob 8/30/44) was found guilty on Oct. 12 of four counts each of lewd act upon a child and oral copulation or sexual penetration with child 10 years old or younger and one count of forcible oral copulation, victim under 14 years old.

In 1971, Whitsell was convicted in Louisiana of two counts of aggravated rape in two separate cases and served seven years in prison for those convictions.

The defendant was babysitting the young family member when he abused her at her Canyon Country home between Jan. 1, 2015 and June 30, 2015, according to evidence presented at the six-day-long trial.

Case PA084603 was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Santa Clarita Station.

[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 protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.