



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE MEDIA RELATIONS DIVISION

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Newhall man sent to prison for molesting underage girls

SAN FERNANDO – A 20-year-old Newhall man who trolled for teen girls on Internet social media sites and hung out with younger boys so he could meet younger girls was sentenced to 15 years and four months in state prison today after pleading no contest to molesting 15 girls in 2010 and 2011, the District Attorney's Office announced

Deputy District Attorney Julie Kramer said Michael Downs was sentenced by San Fernando Superior Court Judge Hayden Zacky. Downs pleaded to 14 felony counts and one misdemeanor charge involving the victims, between the ages of 16 and 12 when the crimes occurred. She said the felony charges included eight counts of lewd conduct with a child, five counts of unlawful sex with a minor and one count of sexual penetration by a foreign object of a minor. The misdemeanor count was sexual battery.

Downs was charged in December 2011 and has been in custody since then in connection with the case. As part of his sentence, he must register for life as a sex offender. A restitution hearing will be scheduled by Judge Zacky on Feb. 27.

Authorities said Downs was between the ages of 18 and 19 when the crimes occurred. They said he lied about his age, pretending to be 15 or 16. He would meet the victims through social media, at malls and house parties. He also befriended younger teen boys to meet girls in their age group.

The case was investigated by the Sheriff's Special Victims Bureau.

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