

*Jackie Lacey*  
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NEWS RELEASE

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## **Man Charged With Child Sex Abuse, Other Crimes**

A Norwalk man accused of sexually abusing two children pleaded not guilty late yesterday to more than half a dozen felony counts, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Manuel Montes, 43 (dob 9/27/70), was charged with four counts of lewd act upon a child, and one count each of possession of matter depicting minor engaging in sexual conduct, distribution of child pornography and using minor for sex acts in case VA133904. His bail was set at \$460,000.

The defendant's brother and ex-girlfriend were also charged in the case. Lorenzo Montes, 46 (dob 5/29/67), and Stacey Marie Oropeza, 41 (dob 7/17/72), were charged with one count of accessory after the fact. Lorenzo Montes pleaded not guilty, while Oropeza has yet to be arraigned.

Prosecutors said law enforcement was tipped off by the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children about Manuel Montes allegedly being involved with online child pornography.

As authorities sought out Manuel Montes, they unknowingly came across his brother, Lorenzo Montes. Lorenzo Montes claimed he did not know Manuel, prosecutors said.

After continuing their search for Manuel Montes, officials found him at a friend's house with Lorenzo Montes. Oropeza also is purported to have tipped off Manuel Montes that authorities were looking for him.

Prosecutors said the two victims were girls under the age of 14, and the abuse occurred in Whittier during certain periods between 2006 and 2013.

Manuel Montes' next court appearance is scheduled for March 7 in Department J of the Los Angeles Superior Court, Norwalk Branch for a preliminary hearing setting. If convicted as charged, Manuel Montes faces a maximum sentence of 16 years in state prison.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is investigating the case.

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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. Annually, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.