

*Jackie Lacey*  
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NEWS RELEASE

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**Teacher's Aide Charged with Continuous Sexual Abuse of Students, Kidnapping**

A special education teacher's assistant has been charged with sexually abusing two boys over a six-year period, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Deputy District Attorney Carmelia Mejia said Joaquin Diaz (dob 8/13/71) of Woodland Hills was charged on May 27 with two counts of continuous sexual abuse and one count of kidnapping for child molesting.

On that day, Diaz pleaded not guilty and is scheduled to return on June 28 to Department S of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, San Fernando Branch.

Case PA086423 includes an allegation that the offenses were committed against more than one victim.

According to the criminal complaint, Diaz sexually abused one victim, now age 19, from Sept. 1, 2009 to Dec. 2, 2014. The second victim, now 11, was allegedly abused beginning July 1, 2015 to May 20, 2016, when the defendant is charged with kidnapping the victim, the prosecutor said.

The defendant worked for various LAUSD schools when the alleged crimes occurred, the prosecutor added.

If convicted as charged, Diaz faces a possible maximum sentence of multiple life terms in state prison.

Bail was set at \$3 million.

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

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