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NEWS RELEASE

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## **Bellflower Man Sentenced for Sexual Assaults on High School Student, Two Women**

A 20-year-old man has been sentenced to 29 years and four months in state prison for sexually assaulting two women and a 14-year-old Lakewood High student last year, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Joshua Dwight Cooper (dob 12/31/98) of Bellflower pleaded no contest yesterday to one count each of assault with intent to commit rape, assault with intent to commit rape on a person under 18 with a great bodily injury allegation, forcible oral copulation and forcible sodomy.

Deputy District Attorney Chad Gillette said Cooper also pleaded no contest on a separate case to one count of residential burglary, person present.

After the plea, Cooper also was ordered to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

On July 7, 2018, the defendant broke into an apartment in Santa Fe Springs and left when confronted by the victim. A month later, Cooper sexually assaulted a 42-year-old woman on a walking path behind the Bellflower courthouse, the prosecutor said.

On Aug. 31, 2018, Cooper approached a 29-year-old woman walking home in Bellflower, sexually assaulted her and took her cell phone. Later that same day, he assaulted the teenage victim when she went to use a restroom at Lakewood High School, the prosecutor added.

Cases VA148151 and VA148635 were investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Whittier Police Department.

### **[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.