

*Jackie Lacey*  
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NEWS RELEASE

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**Former Student Athlete Charged with Felony Domestic Violence**

An 18-year-old man who played as a wide receiver for the University of Southern California has been charged with attacking his girlfriend, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Joseph Freeman Lewis IV (dob 11/22/99) faces one felony count of injuring a spouse, cohabitant, girlfriend or child's parent after a prior domestic violence conviction.

Lewis pleaded not guilty to the charge on July 20 and is scheduled back in court for a preliminary hearing on Aug. 2 in Dept. 33 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. Case BA469776 was filed on July 20.

The defendant allegedly punched, scratched and strangled the victim during a dispute on July 18, prosecutors said.

Deputy District Attorney Colby Cano of the Family Violence Division is assigned to the case.

If convicted as charged, Lewis faces a possible maximum sentence of five years in state prison. Bail is set at \$100,000.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department, 77<sup>th</sup> Division.

**[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.