

Jackie Lacey
District Attorney
<http://da.lacounty.gov>



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Ricardo Santiago
Public Information Officer
213-257-2000
RSantiago@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOoffice

Aug. 24, 2016

Newhall Couple Sentenced for Lewd Acts with Children

A Newhall man was sentenced today to 48 years in state prison for sexually assaulting 10 children over a 15 year period, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Julie Kramer said Francisco Avendaño, 42, pleaded no contest on July 6 to 12 counts of lewd acts upon a child under 14, two counts of lewd acts on a child 14 years old and one count each of lewd acts upon a child 15 years old and continuous sexual abuse.

His live-in girlfriend, Jacqueline Wadsworth, 32, also pleaded no contest on that date to one count of lewd act upon a child under 13.

She was sentenced on Aug. 5 to five years formal probation, 52 weeks of sexual compulsion control classes and is subject to a 10 year protective order. Both defendants will be required to register as sex offenders for the rest of their lives.

Children between the ages of 3 and 15 years old were victimized from 2001 to 2015, the prosecutor said. The victims were children they had access to, including family members, family friends and the children of friends of Avendaño, the prosecutor added.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Special Victims Bureau.

[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.