

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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**Man Ordered to Stand Trial, Arraigned for
Kidnapping 2-Year-Old from Gardena Car Wash**

A Torrance man held to answer on charges that he sexually assaulted a 2-year-old girl after taking her from a car wash in Gardena was arraigned today, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Frank Dunnick said Michael David Ikeler (dob 10/21/78) pleaded not guilty today to one count of lewd act upon a child under the age of 14 with a special allegation that the crime was committed during the course of a kidnapping and two counts of sexual penetration of a child under age 10.

The defendant was ordered to stand trial in case YA092277 after a preliminary hearing on Sept. 9.

A pretrial hearing for Ikeler is scheduled for Oct. 21 in Department C of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Torrance Branch.

On April 2, 2015, a woman was washing her vehicle at a car wash on Western Avenue while her two daughters waited outside of the car. According to court testimony, the older daughter notified her mother that the 2-year old had disappeared.

The young victim was found hours later sitting on the ground by herself near a garbage dumpster at a Cudahy restaurant parking lot, the prosecutor said.

Ikeler faces a possible maximum sentence of 40 years to life in state prison if convicted of all charges.

The defendant remains in custody on \$1 million bail.

The case remains under investigation by the Gardena Police Department.

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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. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.