

*Jackie Lacey*  
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NEWS RELEASE

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## **Volunteer Teacher Pleads to Lewd Acts with Children**

A 30-year-old volunteer teacher accused of lewd acts with two boys was sentenced yesterday after pleading to two counts, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Steven Joseph Mesplou (dob 11/29/84) of Harbor City was sentenced to six years, eight months in state prison, suspended, and placed on probation for five years after pleading no contest to two felony counts each of lewd act with a child, said Deputy District Attorney Kelly Kelley.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Laura Laesecke ordered Mesplou to register for life as a sex offender, complete a year of sex offender counseling and 120 days of community service. He also was barred from having access to social media websites or chat platforms and was ordered to stay away from the victims for 10 years.

Prosecutors said Mesplou, a volunteer teacher at St. Margaret Mary Alcoque Catholic Parish in Lomita, admitted to meeting a teenage boy on an online video chat website.

While on the website, the defendant pretended to be a 15-year-old girl and had his male victim perform sexual acts for him. During this time, Mesplou also instructed the teenager's 8-year-old brother to expose himself, according to prosecutors.

The victims' mother learned about what occurred and subsequently contacted police.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles 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.

