

# Jackie Lacey

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NEWS RELEASE

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## **Aerospace Engineer Sentenced to Four Years in Prison For Arranging, Having Sex With Teenage Girl**

A Torrance aerospace engineer was sentenced today to four years in state prison for arranging and meeting a 14-year-old girl for sex, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Richard Flower (dob 6/27/64) also was ordered to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life. Last month, Flower pleaded no contest to one count each of contact with minor for sexual offense, lewd act upon a child, meeting minor for sexual purposes and possession of child pornography.

Deputy District Attorney Jon Hatami, who prosecuted the case, said Flower contacted the victim through an online instant messaging service on Sept. 25 and arranged to meet her. The following week, Flower met the girl in Palmdale and he had sex with her, the prosecutor added.

After the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department was alerted about the interaction, investigators pretended to be the girl and sent text messages to Flower asking to meet again. Flower was later arrested and child pornography was found on his cell phone, the prosecutor said.

The case was investigated by the Sheriff's Department's Special Victims Bureau.

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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 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.