

Jackie Lacey

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



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Sarah Ardalani
Public Information Officer
213-974-3525
SArdalani@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOffice

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Two Men Plead in “Door-Knob Burglary”

Two Los Angeles men were convicted today after they were accused of breaking into a house while the owner and her children were inside, the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office announced.

Dayvonte Marquis Smith, 23, and Quintin De Andre Moreland, 25, pleaded no contest to one count each of first-degree burglary, person present.

Judge Michael Cowell of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Norwalk Branch, sentenced Smith to nine years in state prison, while Moreland was sentenced to two years in state prison.

A restitution hearing is scheduled for April 10 in Department N of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Norwalk Branch.

Prosecutors said on Jan. 2, at about 11 a.m., the home owner was with her two children when she heard loud knocking on the door. The victim peered through the window and allegedly saw Smith at her doorstep.

The victim became scared and took her children to a bedroom, locked the door and called police. While the victim was on the phone with authorities, Moreland allegedly kicked in the back door.

When police arrived, the defendants allegedly attempted to flee in a truck. As they tried to escape, the two men crashed the vehicle and were arrested by police, prosecutors said.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s 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. Annually, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.