

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Charged with Bell Gardens Sexual Assault, Burglary

A man has been charged with assaulting a 19-year-old female employee at a pet store in Bell Gardens earlier this week, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Jaquice Blackman (dob 3/17/96) of Los Angeles was charged with one count each of assault with attempt to commit rape and second-degree burglary.

Deputy District Attorney Safaan Ahmed said the case includes a special allegation of personal use of a deadly weapon, scissors.

The defendant pleaded not guilty to the charges today and is scheduled to return on December 8 in Department J of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Norwalk Branch. Case VA154709 was filed yesterday.

On November 16, Blackman allegedly broke into the pet store's bathroom carrying a pair of scissors and struck the victim in the face several times and attempted to sexually assault her. The defendant is alleged to have fled when the victim struggled and screamed, the prosecutor said.

If convicted as charged, Blackman faces a possible maximum sentence of more than seven years in state prison. Bail was set at \$120,000.

The case is being investigated by the Bell Gardens Police Department.

[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.