



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

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Former Physician's Assistant Charged with Another Kidnapping

Lonnie Scott Keith, 41, Chico was arraigned on new additional charges this afternoon in Butte County Superior Court as the result of an on-going investigation conducted by the Chico Police Department. Keith had been arrested in January 2013 and was facing multiple separate charges of kidnap and rape of two young women which took place in September and October of 2012. He was already scheduled for a jury trial on October 7 on those counts.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said today that Chico Police Department had continued to actively pursue leads into a number of other kidnaps and rapes which had taken place in the Chico State south campus area in the several months prior to Keith's arrest. The new charges of kidnap and sexual assault involve a new victim from an incident in the spring of 2012. Ramsey said the new incident contained details -- including the use of stupefying drugs and zip ties -- which were eerily similar to those with which Keith has already been arrested and charged.

Public defender Robert Marshall was appointed to represent Keith and a preliminary hearing was scheduled for September 18. Ramsey said he hopes to join this latest set of charges with the current charges and try them all at the October jury trial. Keith faces several life terms in state prison should he be convicted.