



# BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

MICHAEL L. RAMSEY  
District Attorney

MARK MURPHY  
Chief Deputy District Attorney

JASON WINES  
Chief Investigator



## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
January 13, 2023

### Chico Man Arraigned for Hate Crime

A Chico man was arraigned in Butte County Superior Court this afternoon on misdemeanor charges including a hate crime.

**Alexander Jefferson, 34**, of Chico was charged with committing a hate crime battery against a 16-year-old victim in the bathroom of a fitness center in Chico. At the request of the District Attorney's Office, Jefferson's bail was increased to \$25,000, and he was remanded to the Butte County Jail and will next appear in court on January 18 to enter a plea.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the charges stem from a January 10, 2023 incident in a bathroom at a Chico fitness center in which Jefferson is alleged to have attacked a 16-year-old boy in the bathroom of the facility around 8:00 a.m.

Ramsey said the teenage victim accused Jefferson of coming up behind the teenager as the teenager was using the urinal. Jefferson allegedly told the teen he believed the teen to be gay and then punched him in the back of the head. When the victim turned around to notify Jefferson that he was only 16 years old, Jefferson reportedly punched the victim again in the mouth and nose. The victim then quickly exited the restroom and requested the fitness center staff call the police.

Chico police quickly responded to the fitness center and contacted the victim. The victim told police he did not know Jefferson other than seeing him around the gym. The victim stated he never had a conversation with Jefferson and did not know why Jefferson attacked him.

Police noticed the victim's face had redness and two abrasions on the inside of his lower lip. The officers determined those injuries were consistent with someone who was just been hit in the face.

Officers then contacted Jefferson in the men's bathroom. While giving his statement to the police, officers noted Jefferson made statements indicating animus towards gays. Officers then arrested Jefferson for battering the victim.

Ramsey noted that because the underlying battery was allegedly motivated by hate towards gays, his office elected to prosecute the case as a higher-level misdemeanor hate crime which doubles the normal battery sentence from six months to a possible one-year term in jail.

Such hate has no place in our community, Ramsey said.