



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

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Child Molest Charges Filed Against Online Predator from Fairfield

A 19-year-old Fairfield man was arraigned in court today on multiple counts of child molest for his online actions involving a 10-year-old Butte County girl.

Ethan James Alfonso, 19, of Fairfield, was arraigned in Butte County Superior Court this afternoon on ten counts of child molestation for his remotely directing a 10-year-old girl to disrobe and touch herself while on a computer chat program with him. He was also charged with multiple counts of possession of child pornography stemming from his contact and downloading of photos and videos of the girl.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said Alfonso met the girl on Roblox, a worldwide gaming platform. He chatted with the girl over their computers during gaming sessions. Their conversations then moved to Discord, a chat and messaging program. During their conversations, Alfonso was made aware of the girl's age, but nonetheless initially persuaded the girl to create and send him nude photographs and videos of herself. At one point, Alfonso made threats to the minor that he would release the nude images to the internet if she did not continue to supply him with more. The girl however finally told her mother what was happening and the mother reported it to the Chico Police.

Ramsey said Chico police detectives investigated the digital footprint left by Alfonso, and eventually traced him to Fairfield. The Chico detectives, along with the Fairfield Police detectives, served a search warrant and arrest warrant in Fairfield on July 7, 2022. At that time, Alfonso was apprehended and transported to the Butte County Jail.

Ramsey noted this case highlights a very real danger that lurks for children behind every gaming and chat service. Ramsey said it was clear in his messages to the young girl that Alfonso was subtly "grooming" her and taking advantage of her immaturity and gullibility. Ramsey cautioned that crimes of this nature often progress quickly, and can spin out of control for the victims just as fast.

Alfonso is currently being held in custody at the Butte County Jail in lieu of \$700,000 bail. His next court date and further arraignment is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 8:30 a.m.

