



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
May 4, 2023

SEX OFFENDER/ BURGLAR SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS, 8 MONTHS

A Chico man was sentenced in Butte County Superior Court today to 10 years and 8 months in state prison for raping an unconscious woman and for two separate and unrelated home burglaries.

Jacob Ruiz, 22, was sentenced to the maximum term by Superior Court Judge Kristen Lucena following a plea to his charges.

District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the rape case stemmed from the early morning hours of July 16, 2022, when Ruiz encountered a highly-intoxicated 23-year-old woman in downtown Chico, took her back to her residence, and sexually assaulted her on her back porch. The young woman remembered almost nothing of the assault. When she awoke the next day, she participated in a sexual assault exam at Enloe Hospital, leading to DNA evidence that eventually linked Ruiz to the crime.

In the meantime, before the DNA results returned, Ruiz committed two separate burglaries on the morning of August 17, 2022. A homeowner called the police at approximately 7:00 a.m. to report a burglary in progress at a residence on Mission Serra Terrace. The woman was upstairs when she heard a door open. The woman found Ruiz standing near a bathroom sink. The woman's elderly mother was sleeping downstairs and discovered Ruiz had rummaged through her personal belongings and taken some items. Ruiz was found near the scene and was identified by the homeowner.

A resident of an apartment complex nearby also called Chico Police at about 7:55 a.m. that same morning to report someone had broken into his studio apartment through his kitchen window, stealing his cell phone, wallet, and other items. These items were found on Ruiz when he was captured at the Mission Serra Terrace burglary.

In court today, Ruiz's attorney asked the judge to give his client the low term in prison. Ramsey said his office requested that Ruiz be sentenced to the upper term in state prison, noting his predatory behavior and the fact that Ruiz was on two separate grants of felony probation for theft from San Joaquin and Sutter Counties when he came to Chico.

Ruiz had told investigators he came to Chico because he heard it was a "party town." However, he became homeless and admitted he broke into vehicles to steal to live.

Each of Ruiz's offenses qualifies as a prior "strike" under California's Three Strikes Law. In addition to the sentence imposed, Ruiz will be required to register as a sex offender for life.



Jacob Ruiz