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PRESS RELEASE

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Jury Convicts Oroville Man for Molesting Two Boys

A Butte County jury deliberated less than two hours before handing down guilty verdicts yesterday afternoon against an Oroville man who was accused of molesting two children, now adult men, many years ago.

In September 2020, a 24-year-old man contacted the Butte County Sheriff's Office to report that **Lance Prescott Ernest Rogers, 37**, had sexually molested him many, many times between 2005 and 2007 when the victim was age 11 -12, in both Oroville and Salida, CA. An agreement with the Stanislaus County District Attorney allowed the prosecution of a sex count from Salida in the Butte County court.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said that after charging Rogers regarding the allegations in the first case, another adult male, 19, came forward in February 2021, and an additional case alleging many years of sexual abuse by Rogers was brought naming that victim starting when the victim was age 13 in 2014 in Oroville.

Both cases were consolidated and tried together. The jury heard four days of testimony over two weeks.

During the trial, jurors heard the now 27-year-old victim testify how Rogers was his babysitter starting when the victim was 10 or 11 and began sexually touching him. The victim told the jury Rogers then became his nanny when his parents were at work. The victim said he came forward when he heard that Rogers was back in town and was seen with other young boys.

The jury also heard from the other, now 21-year-old, victim who described several years of inappropriate sexual touching when he lived with Rogers in 2014 until he moved away several years later. The victim was homeless when his mother abandoned him at 12 years old and he moved in with Rogers, who befriended the victim and a group of other boys about the same age.

Rogers acted as his own attorney in the trial after he fired his assigned public defender and chose to represent himself.

Testifying from the witness stand on his own behalf, Rogers admitted to the jury he was previously convicted of first-degree residential burglary and possession of child pornography in

2008, and had been sentenced to state prison.

Rogers called a colorful cast of witnesses to testify on his behalf, including two sex offenders he served time with in the Butte County Jail.

The trial prosecutor, Deputy District Attorney Jeff Greeson, praised the courage of the victims noting: “The victims in this case kept a terrible secret for years, but chose to come forward to do what they could to prevent a predator from victimizing other children. Having the courage to not only testify about some of the worst moments in their lives but to answer questions put to them by the very man that molested them shows uncommon bravery and sacrifice.”

The prosecutor further thanked the jurors, saying: “The 12 men and women of the jury and the three alternates who heard the case listened to some very difficult stories. It is because of jurors like these that justice works in Butte County.”

Immediately following the jury verdicts, Butte County Superior Court Judge Michael Deems conducted a court trial and found a former “strike” allegation based on the 2008 burglary conviction to be true. Judge Deems set the case for sentencing on July 6, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

Rogers is facing a minimum of 45 years to a maximum of 93 years in prison.



Lance Rogers