



City of Ridgecrest Police Department

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RONALD N. STRAND, Chief of Police

Press Release

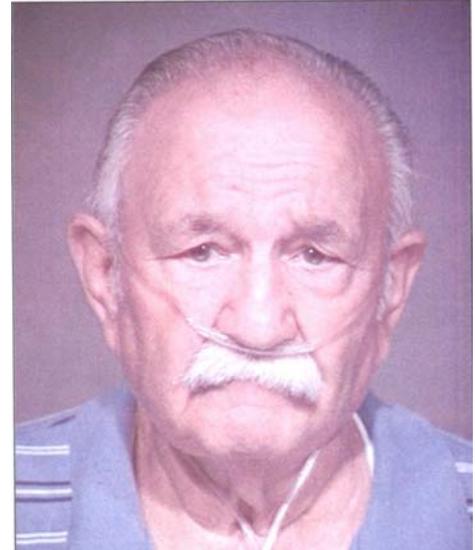
DATE OF EVENT: January 1, 2005 – July 27, 2010

TYPE OF EVENT: Child Molestation Investigation

LOCATION: 400 block of N. Florence St.
Ridgecrest, CA

VICTIM'S: CONFIDENTIAL

SUSPECT: Melvin Henderson, 73 years old
Ridgecrest Resident



In March of 2009, a Ventura County resident reported to the Ventura County Sheriff's Office that Ridgecrest resident, Melvin Henderson, had molested her five-year-old daughter. Although Henderson was living in Ventura County at the time of the reported offense, he was previously a resident of the City of Ridgecrest and lived in the 400 block of Florence Street. During the subsequent investigation, Henderson admitted to molesting the Ventura County child victim.

While Henderson was being held in the Ventura County Jail, another child victim disclosed that Henderson had molested her while she lived in the City of Ridgecrest. The victim and her parents reported Henderson cared for her while her parents were out of town or at work and it was during those times, that he would repeatedly molest her. During an interview with Henderson, he admitted to the allegations made by the second child victim. Henderson admitted to numerous allegations of child molestation. Henderson also admitted to showing the child pornography and taking nude photos of her.

At this time, the Ridgecrest Police Department and Ventura Sheriff's Office are requesting that any parent who may have children that had contact with Henderson or who suspect Henderson may have victimized their children, to contact Detective Kristen Lawson, Ridgecrest Police Department (760-499-5114) or Detective Gregory Tougas, Ventura County Sheriff's Office (805-371-8397).

RONALD N. STRAND, Chief of Police
PREPARED BY: Detective Kristen Lawson