

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 05-303

RELEASE NUMBER

May 7, 2015

RELEASE DATE

Joyce E. Dudley

APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Von Nguyen, Deputy District Attorney

CONTACT (805) 568-2300

***** PRESS RELEASE *****

May 7, 2015

Re: *People v. Herbert Keith Wells*

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that defendant Herbert Keith Wells, age 19 was sentenced to 3 years in State Prison. Wells pled guilty to one count of rape in violation of Penal Code section 261(a) and one count of sexual battery in violation of Penal Code section 243.4. The defendant will be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

The defendant, a resident of Southern California, moved to Santa Barbara in 2014. During the first week in August of 2014, he sexually assaulted Jane Doe #1 a resident in the same apartment complex. The second sexual assault involving a second victim occurred on August 31, 2014 in the same apartment complex. Law enforcement officers did not learn of the first sexual assault until after the second assault was reported on August 31, 2014.

Jane Doe #1 spoke at the sentencing hearing today. She expressed her desire for Wells to get help rather than a lengthy incarceration. This sentence was a result of a negotiated plea after input from both victims in this case.

SANTA BARBARA OFFICE
1112 Santa Barbara Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2300
Fax (805) 568-2453

SANTA MARIA OFFICE
312-D East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454
(805) 346-7540
Fax (805) 346-7588

LOMPOC OFFICE
115 Civic Center Plaza
Lompoc, CA 93436
(805) 737-7760
Fax (805) 737-7732