



Fresno County Sheriff – Coroner's Office

Margaret Mims, Sheriff-Coroner

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News Release

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Sex Offender Captured in Oregon After Being on the Run for 23 Years

On September 9th, 2016, Fresno County Sheriff's deputies booked 55 year old Arturo Rangel into the Fresno County Jail on felony charges of lewd and lascivious acts with a child under 14. Earlier in the day, deputies traveled to the Coos County Jail in Oregon to take Rangel into custody and transport him to Fresno.

In 1993, Arturo Rangel was arrested and booked on four counts of Lewd or Lascivious Acts with a minor under 14 years old and one count of annoying or molesting a child under 18 years old. These crimes occurred from 1991 to 1992. Rangel pled guilty to the charges and was scheduled to receive seven years in prison. Prior to the sentencing date, Judge Gene Gomes released Rangel on a Cruz Waiver. This court agreement allows a defendant to be released from jail so they can address personal matters before they appear at their sentencing hearing. The judge makes the defendant aware that they can face a longer prison sentence if they fail to appear at their sentencing hearing. Despite the risk of receiving a stiffer punishment, Rangel chose to skip his court date and fled the area. Rangel was then listed as a fugitive and the judge issued a bench warrant for his arrest. It was believed Rangel left the United States.

On July 20th, 2016, the Fresno County Sheriff's Office received an anonymous tip regarding the possible whereabouts of Arturo Rangel. The tip stated Rangel might be living in Oregon. The information was given to a sheriff's detective who is assigned to the US Marshal Service Pacific

Southwest Regional Fugitive Task Force. His investigation revealed a possible address for Rangel in Myrtle Point, Oregon. The FSO detective then contacted another investigator with the US Marshal Service Pacific Northwest Violent Offender Fugitive Task Force and asked for his help to find and capture Rangel. On August 23rd, 2016, Deputy US Marshals went to a home on the 99000 block of Sitkum Lane in Myrtle Point, found Rangel and arrested him. He was taken to the Coos County Jail for holding until he could be transported to Fresno.

A further look into Rangel's criminal history showed that in 1986 he was arrested and convicted in Oregon of forcible rape with violence and possession of a concealed firearm. He served time in prison until 1989. Following his release, Rangel moved to Fresno.

The Fresno County Sheriff's Office has a detective assigned to the local US Marshal Service Fugitive Task Force. This case showcases the value of having a partnership with the US Marshal Service. Working together, the reach of local law enforcement agencies is expanded exponentially, which allows the Sheriff's Office to better investigate cases that cross state lines and even international boundaries.