



GREGORY D. TOTTE
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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Sexually Violent Predator Released as a Transient Over District Attorney's Objection

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that the Ventura County Superior Court has ordered Ross Leo Wollschlager (DOB 5/31/63) be released as a transient, conditionally and under supervision, no later than March 17, 2020. Wollschlager, a former resident of Ventura, was convicted of raping two women in 1983, and of child molestation in 1989. In 1996, a jury determined Wollschlager was a Sexually Violent Predator (SVP).

Under California law, when the California Department of State Hospitals determines an SVP is suitable for conditional release under supervision, the court having jurisdiction over the SVP must review and accept the conditional release plan before the SVP is released into the community. Wollschlager has been pending release since January 2019, when Liberty Health Care (Liberty), a contractor hired by the state to supervise SVPs in the community, began looking for a suitable location of placement.

The District Attorney's Office has repeatedly objected to Wollschlager's transient release without his placement in a fixed location to ensure adequate supervision. However, by law, the failure of Liberty to find a placement for Wollschlager cannot act as a permanent barrier to his supervised release. Under the law, Liberty has provided terms and conditions that Wollschlager must agree to follow prior to his release. These terms and conditions are designed to protect the public and the conditionally released SVP. They include an obligation to wear a GPS monitor at all times, refrain from using alcohol or drugs (including cannabis), and staying away from bars, dance clubs, nightclubs, or places frequented by children. Should Wollschlager violate these terms and conditions, he may be returned back to the state hospital for an indeterminate time. The District Attorney's Office will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to monitor Wollschlager after his transient release to ensure public safety.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 280 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and other professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.

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