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CITY ATTORNEY ROCKY DELGADILLO SECURES INTERNET RESTRICTIONS, SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION FOR FORMER VALLEY RESIDENT

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo today announced the conviction, lifetime sex offender registration, and imposition of strict internet limitations on a former Sherman Oaks resident found in possession of child pornography.

Joseph G. Castro, 36, pled no contest to one count of possession of child pornography and was sentenced by Commissioner Timothy Murphy to 36 months probation and lifetime sex offender registration. Commissioner Murphy also ordered Castro to make a \$1,000 contribution to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. In addition, Castro was ordered to register as a sex offender in Florida, his current state of residence, enroll in 52 weekly one-hour counseling sessions, submit to booking and photographing and provide a DNA sample.

During the course of his probation, Castro is also prohibited from going to places where children congregate; accessing, viewing, owning or possessing any pornographic material; photographing or recording images of minors; and possessing a computer or access to the Internet except in a place of business under employer supervision.

The case against Castro stems from his attempted suicide in May 2006. While in the hospital, Castro's roommate was asked to retrieve items from his room and subsequently found two folders containing child pornography believed to have been downloaded off of the Internet. After confronting Castro at the hospital, the roommate later turned the photographs over to authorities. Castro has since been discharged from the hospital and moved to West Palm Beach, Florida where he currently resides.

The investigation was submitted to City Attorney Delgadillo's Special Trials Unit which targets child sexual exploitation crimes, and was successfully prosecuted by Deputy City Attorney Ellen Friedmann. A progress report is scheduled for October 23 in Department 81 of the Los Angeles Superior Court to show proof of submission of a DNA sample, booking and sex offender registration.

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