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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### MAN WHO SENT NUDE PHOTOS TO MINOR GIRL BY PHONE ENTERS PLEA

Le Grand resident George Allen Leavitt, 32, will report to Merced County jail on August 26, 2008, to serve a six month sentence after admitting a violation of Penal Code Section 647.6, annoying or molesting a child under age 18. As a part of the July 17 plea agreement, Leavitt is required to register as a sex offender and successfully complete sex offender treatment classes, according to Deputy District Attorney David Sandhaus, who prosecuted the case.

A relationship between Leavitt and the 14 year old victim came to light when the victim's mother discovered photographs of Leavitt in her daughter's wallet. Eventually, it was discovered that Leavitt was sending nude photographs of himself to the victim via his cell phone, said Sandhaus.

Sandhaus added that love letters were also discovered going back and forth between Leavitt and his victim. In one letter, Leavitt sent a picture of his pickup truck to the victim and said that someday it would be hers. In another letter, Leavitt told the victim that he would "take care of you forever". The victim told police she believed that Leavitt intended to marry her when she became 18. "The victim's parents were watchful and helped to bring Leavitt to justice. I hope this case serves as a reminder to all parents that they must be vigilant in the fight against those who would prey on our children," said Sandhaus.

Sherriff's Deputies arrested Leavitt on February 20, 2008 following a lengthy investigation. Merced attorney Ralph Temple represented Leavitt.