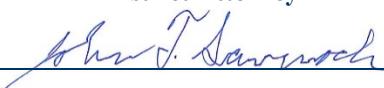


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

JOHN T. SAVRNOCH
District Attorney



01-828

RELEASE NUMBER

January 27, 2026

RELEASE DATE

Kimberly R. Dittrich, Deputy District Attorney

CONTACT NAME

(805) 346-7540

CONTACT PHONE

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

Santa Maria Man Arraigned on Multiple Child Sexual Abuse Charges

Re: *People v. Ernest James Lattimer*
Santa Barbara Superior Court Case No. 26CR00357

SANTA MARIA, Calif., January 27, 2026 - Santa Barbara County District Attorney John T. Savrnoch announced today that Ernest James Lattimer, of Santa Maria, California, was arraigned on the felony complaint filed on January 20, 2026, in front of The Honorable Judge McGregor in Santa Maria Department 9.

Mr. Lattimer entered pleas of not guilty to four charges of sexual intercourse with a child 10 and under, three charges of sexual penetration with a child 10 and under, and ten charges of lewd and lascivious acts using force or fear upon a child under the age of 14. In addition, he denied all special allegations including there were multiple victims under the age of 14 years old. Mr. Lattimer and his wife ran an in-home day care from approximately 1998-2013 near Righetti High School.

The case was assigned to Department 7 of the Superior Court in Santa Maria for all purposes. The next court date will be January 26, 2026, for bail review and pre-preliminary hearing, a preliminary hearing was set for February 3, 2025. Mr. Lattimer remains in custody with bail set at \$1,000,000.

Anyone with additional information related to this investigation is encouraged to contact Detective M. Sosa at (805) 934-6170.

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