Public Information Release

January 19, 2012

Sergeant Steve Brooks, Public Information Officer

A sexual predator has been arrested by detectives with the Major Crimes Unit during an undercover operation.

A concerned parent contacted the Lake County Sheriff's Office after learning that a 29 year old male had contacted his 15 year old daughter on Facebook. The male suspect began to text the minor, telling her that he wanted to have sex with her. She sent a text message to the suspect, informing him that she was only 15 years old and did not wish to have any contact with him. The suspect attempted to contact her again after she told him to stop.

Detectives launched an investigation and were able to monitor the text messages being sent from the suspect, who was identified as 29 year old Jason James Russell of Clearlake. On January 19, 2012, detectives conducted an undercover operation. Posing as the female minor, detectives continued texting with the suspect and agreed to meet with him at Austin Park in Clearlake. The suspect's intention was to have sex with the minor and had offered to pay for the sexual services.

On January 19, 2012 at approximately 2:45 pm, Russell arrived at Austin Park in Clearlake. He was arrested after a short foot pursuit. Russell provided a statement that he would look for underage females on Facebook. Using explicit language he would then sexually proposition them. Russell admitted that he had propositioned several other female juveniles while using Facebook.

Russell was booked at the Lake County Hill Road Correctional Facility on felony charges of lewd act on a child under 16 years of age, contact a minor with the intent to commit a sex offense, arrange meeting with a minor to commit a sex offense, go to the arranged meeting to commit a sex offense, annoy or molest a child, solicit prostitution and probation violation.

On behalf of the Lake County Sheriff's Office, parents are encouraged to monitor social networking sites their children frequent. Sexual predators often use these sites to target their victims.

-6-0
-5-6
-5-0