

Chico woman faces up to 16 years in prison for teen sex trafficking



Franklin

By Staff Reports

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Oroville >> A Chico woman on Wednesday pleaded no contest to a charge of arranging to sell a 15-year-old girl for sex at a Chico motel.

She also admitted to a prior “strike” arising out of a 2014 conviction in Oregon for trying to suffocate her infant child with a pillow.

As a result of the plea, she faces up to 16 years in state prison, according to a press release issued by the Butte County District Attorney’s Office.

Alexis Franklin, 22, knew the teenaged girl as a close family friend, District Attorney Mike Ramsey said.

On March 11, Franklin is said to have rented a hotel room and taken the girl to dinner. The girl later told police she became sleepy after leaving the restaurant and walking back to the hotel. The girl described being pressured to change into lingerie while trying to stay awake. Her next memory was of leaving the hotel room several hours later, at 4 a.m.

The girl was taken to Franklin’s apartment, where she called her mother to be taken home, according to the release. After telling her mother what had happened, the mother called police.

Ramsey said the investigation led detectives to believe Franklin used “dating” websites to advertise that the girl was available for “dates” for a price. Search warrants issued for Franklin’s home and online classified sites yielded photographs of the victim wearing lingerie, which were taken by Franklin shortly before bringing the victim to the motel.

Chico Police Chief Mike O’Brien said while there is no evidence Chico has a particular problem with human trafficking, this investigation shows the combination of technology and vulnerable youth can mean crimes like this can occur anywhere.

O’Brien said the city, along with the District Attorney’s Office and Butte County social service agencies, have been forming advocacy groups and alliances to ensure a countywide team will address this challenge.

Franklin is being held in the Butte County Jail without bail pending sentencing. Because she admitted the strike, she cannot receive probation. She will be sentenced by Judge James Reilley on Aug. 23.