



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF SHASTA

Gerald C. Benito
District Attorney

Daniel E. Flynn
Assistant District Attorney

PRESS RELEASE

August 13, 2008

Austin Lee Curato was ordered to stand trial on three counts of committing lewd and lascivious acts on three children under the age of fourteen years of age after evidence was presented at the preliminary hearing on Tuesday, August 12, 2008 before the Honorable Judge Stephen Baker.

Curato, who was also charged with an enhancement alleging those sex acts against multiple victims, is facing a potential sentence of life in prison if convicted on all charges.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the prosecutor, Stew Jankowitz, requested that Curato be remanded into custody and bail be set. Judge Baker remanded Curato into custody and set bail in the amount of \$200,000. Curato had previously been granted a release on his own recognizance by another judge and was out of custody during this hearing, however, after hearing the evidence and acknowledging that Curato was now facing a life sentence if convicted, Judge Baker determined that it would not be appropriate to allow Curato to await trial while out of custody on his own recognizance.

The case is set for September 2, 2008 for arraignment on the sustained charges. It is anticipated that trial dates will also be set on that date.