



## COUNTY OF FRESNO

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District Attorney

### NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **DAMON RODGERS TAKES ADVANTAGE OF “JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OFFER” TO GET A REDUCED SENTENCE**

Damon Mandrel Rodgers (40, of Fresno), the convicted rapist who was working as a security guard assigned to a rape counseling center in Fresno, entered pleas to criminal charges yesterday to take advantage of a settlement offer made by a Superior Court Judge.

On July 27, 2017, Mr. Rodgers was arrested when he was found to be in possession of a loaded 45-caliber handgun, a baton, pepper spray, and a concealed knife. At the time of his arrest, he was working as a security guard at Rape Counseling Services near Downtown Fresno. Mr. Rodgers is prohibited from owning or possessing firearms, ammunition, and pepper spray because of his prior sexual assault convictions. Mr. Rodgers is also a registered sex offender and is listed on California's Megan's Law website.

On Wednesday, September 20, Mr. Rodgers entered pleas of “no contest” to violations of:

- 1.) Possession of a Firearm by a Felon [Penal Code § 29800(a)(1)];
- 2.) Possession of Ammunition by a Felon [Penal Code § 30305(a)(1)];
- 3.) Carrying a Concealed Dirk or Dagger [Penal Code § 21310];
- 4.) Possession of a Billy [Penal Code § 22210]; and
- 5.) Possession of Tear Gas by a Felon [Penal Code § 22810(a)(1)].

The defendant also admitted that he had previously been convicted of three (3) serious and violent “Strike Priors” in Madera County in 1997.

In 1997, the defendant was convicted in Madera County of two (2) counts of forcible rape and one (1) count of assault with intent to commit rape. In one of the prior rape offenses, the defendant placed the barrel of a handgun to the forehead of a fifteen-year-old victim and threatened to kill her if she “said a word or screamed.” He then led the victim to an apartment and forcefully raped her while continuously threatening to “kill her.” In the second prior rape offense, the defendant brandished a handgun to the sixteen-year-old victim and threatened to shoot her if she “yelled or screamed.” He then forced the victim into a dark alley where he forcefully raped her while he continued threatening to “shoot her.” In the prior assault with intent to rape offense, the defendant used a ruse to get the seventeen-year-old victim separated from her sister. Once alone with the victim, the defendant grabbed her from behind, placing one hand over her waist and the other hand over her mouth. Fortunately, the victim was able to break free and escape before she was sexually assaulted. In 1997, the defendant was sentenced to sixteen (16) years in State Prison as a result of

those convictions. At the time of the sentence, he was suspected of committing several other rapes and attempted rapes in the City of Madera.

If convicted of the current Fresno County charges at trial, Mr. Rodgers was facing a potential sentence of 25 years to life in State Prison. However, pursuant to a judicial settlement offer reached between the defendant and Judge Wayne Ellison, he will be sentenced to only six (6) years in State Prison. On Wednesday, the District Attorney's Office made no offer to resolve the case, and objected to the Judge's settlement offer.

The defendant is currently in custody at the Fresno County Jail. He is scheduled to be sentenced on October 24, 2017, at 8:30 a.m., in Department 20 of the Fresno County Superior Court.

The Media may email [FCDAMedia@co.fresno.ca.us](mailto:FCDAMedia@co.fresno.ca.us) or contact Administrative Assistant Leslie Gillespie at (559) 600-4442 with questions.

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