



# Arroyo Grande Police Department

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **LEWD ACT IN PUBLIC ARREST AND CONVICTION**

In November 2008, the mother of a 15-year-old female called from Colorado to report an incident involving her daughter that had occurred in Arroyo Grande in June 2007. At that time the female victim, whose identity is confidential, was visiting her family on the Central Coast. The female victim went to a local movie theater with several family members, including her 51-year-old uncle identified as Robert Louis Sihler. According to the victim, Sihler sat next to her in the movie theater and engaged in a lewd act while looking at her. That act was witnessed by another family member.

The victim's mother told the Arroyo Grande Police Department that they initially agreed not to notify the police regarding the incident if Sihler in turn agreed to seek therapy. When Sihler never sought that therapy, the victim and her mother reported the incident and the case was referred to the San Luis Obispo County District Attorney's Office as a lewd act and annoying or molesting a child under the age of 18.

The Arroyo Grande Police Department forwarded a copy of the report of the incident to the Pasadena Police Department for information because Sihler was a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District. The Pasadena Police Department conducted its own independent investigation and discovered more information related to a possible sexual molestation of a child and a "peeping Tom" incident.

On March 5, 2010, in a court trial in San Luis Obispo County, Sihler was found guilty of a lewd act in public and annoying or molesting a child under the age of 18. As a result of the conviction, Sihler will be required to register as a sex offender. Sihler has been on administrative leave from the Los Angeles Unified School District pending the recent outcome of this case.

For additional information on Sihler's employment status with the Los Angeles Unified School District and/or any investigation by the Pasadena Police Department, please contact those agencies directly.

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