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We are here today to address the important issue of how to stop the harassment of child crime victims after the perpetrators of the crimes against them are convicted and sentenced for those crimes.

Earlier this year, Anand Jon, a celebrity fashion designer, was convicted of numerous felonies against young women, who were or aspired to be models. He was convicted of forcible rape, attempted forcible oral copulation and attempted sexual assault.

One of his victims, Autumn Albin, now age 18, is here with me today. In reference to Autumn Mr. Jon was convicted of 3 felonies including 2 counts of a lewd and lascivious act with a child age 14 or 15 and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Autumn testified at Mr. Jon's trial and spoke at his sentencing, delivering a very emotional victim impact statement.

During the trial, her name was not made public, since she was a minor and the court protected her privacy. In addition, she did not do any interviews and her face was not televised at the sentencing.

It was, therefore, very upsetting to Autumn to learn that after the conviction and sentencing of Mr. Jon, that persons appearing to act on behalf of him contacted a number of her "friends" on her Facebook page and texted some of her

friends providing her full name and asserting that Autumn had lied and that as a result Anand Jon had received a life sentence in prison.

A short example of what he texted was:

“If you are getting this text, you know Autumn Albin. Her lies caused Anand Jon to get a life sentence. There is a reward up to \$100,000 for the truth. If you have a conscience please contact Inv. Agaki 323 466 4837 323 466 4837 anandjoncasejhvinvestigations.com”

This attempt by Jon’s supporters to attack her after a jury found him guilty of serious crimes against her was very upsetting to Autumn.

It took a great deal of courage for Autumn to testify both at the grand jury and at the trial. It was very embarrassing to her as a teenager to have to testify about the details of what Mr. Jon had done to her and many in the courtroom cried as she gave her victim impact statement and discussed the emotional toll that the crimes that he committed against her took on her.

However, when the sentencing was over, Autumn felt that she had done the right thing and that she could now go on with her life.

When her friends began to inform her, however, of what Jon’s investigators had posted on Facebook and were texting her friends, she realized that the nightmare was not over.

She was very upset because many of her “friends” on Facebook who saw the investigator’s message were complete strangers to her.

She had never told them that she was a victim in a criminal case. Her privacy had been completely invaded and her full name was being disclosed without her consent.

In addition, false statements were being made about her. Particularly upsetting was the texted statement to her friends that “Her lies caused Anand Jon to get a life sentence.”

First, the jury believed that she told the truth and therefore convicted Mr. Jon of crimes against her. Second, Mr. Jon did not get a life sentence because of Autumn’s testimony. He received a life sentence because he was convicted of crimes against her and against other women. Finally, offering a reward of \$100,000 for the truth seems like an effort to find someone who was so desperate for money they would come forward and say whatever Mr. Jon’s supporters wanted them to say.

Autumn felt that she was being unfairly targeted and harassed and came to me to find out what she could do about it.

I immediately sent a letter to Mr. Jon's investigators warning them to cease and desist but received no response. After that I spoke to California Senator Dean Florez, distinguished majority leader of our state Senate, and asked him if he would introduce new legislation to stop the harassment of child victims by defendants or their supporters after the defendants were convicted of crimes against the victim who was a minor.

My analysis of current law was that it was inadequate to deal with the problem faced by Autumn and I discussed with him changes that I felt needed to be made to provide new protections for crime victims who are under the age of 18.

Senator Florez immediately responded and took quick action to formulate a bill which will now be introduced in the California legislature.

Autumn and I want to express to Senator Florez our appreciation and great respect for his important leadership on this important issue. We look forward to testifying in support of SB834 and doing everything possible to help it become law.

GLORIA ALLRED
Attorney - at - Law
Representing Autumn Albin
November 24, 2009

Contact: Gloria Allred
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When I think about what I've been through, I feel it's ironic. I went around thinking, "Finally, the nightmare is over!" and in reality it was just beginning. All throughout high school I had managed to leave this horrid memory in the dark because how many teenagers really would want to tell their fellow classmates such a thing? None. It's embarrassing and heartbreaking. The day I saw the page on Facebook, my heart dropped. I began to be questioned about my personal business by people I barely even knew. The text message the investigators forwarded ended up being sent to me. I had no idea what to tell my friends and acquaintances when they asked what the investigators were talking about. My privacy was invaded and I was starting to crumble. I had really just wanted it to be over with, but after I met Ms. Allred I decided that I will not be intimidated into keeping quiet. I will continue to fight so no other victim will have to be put through what I have had to suffer, and so that no one will get away with this again.

Autumn Albin

November 24, 2009

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November 4, 2009
VIA U.S. MAIL

Hover View Investigations
1551 Cassil Place
Los Angeles, CA 90028

Re: Autumn Albin

Dear Mr. Agaki,

I represent, Autumn Albin, who is a victim of your client, Anand Jon. It has come to my attention that you have contacted certain friends of Autumn whom you may have found through her Facebook page and texted to those friends that "her lies caused Anand Jon to get a life sentence. There is a reward up to \$100,000 for the truth".

We believe that your allegations about Autumn are a gross form of harassment of her and are despicable. Autumn was very brave to testify in this matter, and it is outrageous that you are offering a six figure reward hoping that someone will come forward to say that she is a liar.

In making this offer, I have to presume that you are making it on behalf of Mr. Jon. Is your client trying to intimidate and humiliate this young victim by making these contacts and hoping that someone may be so desperate for money that that person will say what Mr. Jon wants to hear and what Mr. Jon would like to characterize as the truth?

Your client has a major problem. At the trial, he had a chance to cross-examine the prosecution's witnesses when they testified and to subpoena his own witnesses. The jury had ample opportunity to assess not only the quantity of evidence against Mr. Jon, but also the quality of the testimony. They assessed the credibility of the witnesses that they heard and they believed that the evidence that the prosecution presented to them proved the charges in reference to Autumn beyond a reasonable doubt.

The charges on which he was convicted in which Autumn was the victim were the following: Counts 3, 4, and 5: Lewd Act Upon a Child age 14 or 15 a violation of Penal Code Section 288(c)(1) (felonies) and Count 6: Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor,(a misdemeanor). These counts relating to Autumn were not the basis for his life sentence.

Mr. Agaki
November 4, 2009
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To now try to besmirch the credibility of the victim and conduct a campaign of harassment against her in an effort to attack her veracity is reprehensible and you, your agency and Mr. Jon should be ashamed of yourselves.

Given the convictions and the evidence admitted in court to support those charges, we consider your statements about Autumn to be defamatory and reprehensible. We therefore request that you cease and desist from such statements, stop contacting Autumn's friends and others with your allegations and retract your prior false statements about Autumn.

Please notify us within 10 days regarding your intentions in this matter. If I do not hear from you within that time period, I will advise Autumn of her legal options, and will be happy to support her in any option which she chooses to exercise.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

ALLRED, MAROKO & GOLDBERG


GLORIA ALLRED

GA:am

AUTHOR'S COPY

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

Bill No.

as introduced, Florez.

General Subject: Court orders: minor victims: prohibitions on communications.

Existing law authorizes various postconviction orders by the court.

This bill would authorize the court, upon the conviction of a defendant for an offense involving a minor victim, to issue orders prohibiting the defendant or any person acting on behalf of, or at the request of, the defendant from having any communications with the victim or the victim's family members, spouse, coworkers, or any other person designated by the court who has a social relationship with the victim. The bill would also authorize exceptions to those orders following a noticed hearing, as specified.

Violation of these orders would be punishable as civil contempt.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.



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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 1201.3 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

1201.3. (a) Upon the conviction of a defendant for an offense involving a minor victim, the court is authorized to issue orders that would do either or both of the following:

(1) Prohibit the defendant from having any communications with the victim or the victim's family members, spouse, coworkers, or any other person designated by the court who has a social relationship with the victim.

(2) Prohibit any person acting on behalf of, or at the request of, the defendant from having any communications with the victim or the victim's family members, spouse, coworkers, or any other person designated by the court who has a social relationship with the victim.

(b) The court may authorize any person subject to an order issued pursuant to subdivision (a) to contact or communicate with the victim or victim's family members, spouse, coworkers, or any other person designated by the court who has a social relationship with the victim if there is a noticed hearing as follows:

(1) Notice of the hearing is served not less than three days prior to the hearing on the victim, on all persons whom the victim has designated for receipt of notice, and on the prosecuting attorney.

(2) Good cause for authorizing the contact or communication is shown at the hearing.



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(c) A violation of an order issued pursuant to subdivision (a) is punishable as provided in Section 1209 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

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