

## **Man gets 17 ½ years for sex trafficking**

SANTA ANA – A Washington, D.C., man has been sentenced to 17 and a half years in federal prison after admitting to arranging for two teenage girls to travel to the West Coast to work as prostitutes in several locations, including Orange County.

Dwayne Lawson, 29, pleaded guilty in a Santa Ana federal courtroom Thursday to one count of sex trafficking of children but admitted in a plea agreement to directing two teenage girls to engage in prostitution, prosecutors said.

Police took Lawson into custody in April of last year, shortly after Los Angeles Police Department investigators arrested one of the two girls, a 17-year-old, on prostitution charges.

Authorities identified the girl as a runaway from Florida, determining that she worked for a pimp they later determined to be Lawson, who reportedly went by several other aliases, including "Staydown" and "Christopher Tyrone Young."

Prosecutors say Lawson contacted the girl through MySpace in the fall of 2008, promising to make her a star. Lawson in his plea deal admitted to giving the girl a bus ticket from Florida to Las Vegas, where he picked her up to drive her to Orange County.

Lawson had the girl work as a prostitute in several cities, authorities say, including Anaheim, Pomona, Montclair and Las Vegas.

Lawson in his plea agreement also admitted to driving the second female victim from Miami to Orange County in 2008 and having her work as a prostitute in "various counties and states."

"The young people in this case were victimized and exploited in a horrific way," United States Attorney Andre Birotte Jr. said in a written release. "This sentence demonstrates that sex traffickers and pimps will suffer severe consequences for their reprehensible conduct."