

FILED

Jun 21 2023

ORDERED UNSEALED on 09/14/2023 s/ [Signature]

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
By Gloria Vocal DEPUTY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

June 2022 Grand Jury

1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

2 Plaintiff,

3 v.

4 DOUGLAS WIEDERHOLD,
5 aka "James,"

6 Defendant.

7 Case No. '23 CR1202 JLS

8 I N D I C T M E N T

9 Title 18, U.S.C., Secs. 1594(c) and
10 1591(a) - Conspiracy to Commit Sex
11 Trafficking by Force, Fraud and
12 Coercion; Title 18, U.S.C.,
13 Secs. 1591(a) (1) and 1591(a) (2) -
14 Sex Trafficking by Force, Fraud and
15 Coercion; Title 18, U.S.C., Sec. 2 -
16 Aiding and Abetting; Title 18,
17 U.S.C., Sec. 1594(d) - Criminal
18 Forfeiture

19 The grand jury charges:

20 Count 1

21 Conspiracy to Commit

22 Sex Trafficking by Force, Fraud and Coercion

23 Beginning on an unknown date, but no later than January 2011, and
24 continuing through an unknown date, but no earlier than March 2012,
25 within the Southern District of California, and elsewhere, defendant
26 DOUGLAS WIEDERHOLD, aka "James," and Michael Pratt (charged elsewhere),
27 conspired and agreed with each other and others to knowingly, in and
28 affecting interstate and foreign commerce, recruit, entice, harbor,
transport, provide, obtain, advertise, maintain, patronize, and solicit
by any means a person - to wit, Victims 1-5 - knowing and in reckless
disregard of the fact that means of force, threats of force, fraud,
coercion, and any combination of such means, would be used to cause

1 these persons to engage in a commercial sex act, and to benefit
2 financially and receive anything of value from participation in a venture
3 engaged in such acts, in violation of Title 18, United States Code,
4 Section 1591(a).

5 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1594(c).

6 **Count 2**

7 **Sex Trafficking by Force, Fraud and Coercion**

8 In or about January 2011, within the Southern District of
9 California, and elsewhere, defendant DOUGLAS WIEDERHOLD, aka "James,"
10 knowingly, in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce, recruited,
11 enticed, harbored, transported, provided, obtained, maintained,
12 patronized, and solicited Victim 1, and benefitted financially and by
13 receiving anything of value from participation in a venture, which
14 recruited, enticed, harbored, transported, provided, obtained, and
15 maintained Victim 1, knowing and in reckless disregard of the fact that
16 means of force, threats of force, fraud, coercion, and any combination
17 of such means, would be used to cause Victim 1 to engage in a commercial
18 sex act; in violation of Title 18, United States Code,
19 Sections 1591(a)(1), 1591(a)(2) and 2 and Pinkerton v. United States,
20 328 U.S. 640 (1946).

21 **Count 3**

22 **Sex Trafficking by Force, Fraud and Coercion**

23 In or about June 2011, within the Southern District of California,
24 and elsewhere, defendant DOUGLAS WIEDERHOLD, aka "James," knowingly, in
25 and affecting interstate and foreign commerce, recruited, enticed,
26 harbored, transported, provided, obtained, maintained, patronized, and
27 solicited Victim 2, and benefitted financially and by receiving anything
28 of value from participation in a venture, which recruited, enticed,

1 harbored, transported, provided, obtained, and maintained Victim 2,
2 knowing and in reckless disregard of the fact that means of force,
3 threats of force, fraud, coercion, and any combination of such means,
4 would be used to cause Victim 2 to engage in a commercial sex act; in
5 violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1591(a)(1),
6 1591(a)(2) and 2 and Pinkerton v. United States, 328 U.S. 640 (1946).

7 **Count 4**

8 **Sex Trafficking by Force, Fraud and Coercion**

9 In or about August 2011, within the Southern District of California,
10 and elsewhere, defendant DOUGLAS WIEDERHOLD, aka "James," knowingly, in
11 and affecting interstate and foreign commerce, recruited, enticed,
12 harbored, transported, provided, obtained, maintained, patronized, and
13 solicited Victim 3, and benefitted financially and by receiving anything
14 of value from participation in a venture, which recruited, enticed,
15 harbored, transported, provided, obtained, and maintained Victim 3,
16 knowing and in reckless disregard of the fact that means of force,
17 threats of force, fraud, coercion, and any combination of such means,
18 would be used to cause Victim 3 to engage in a commercial sex act; in
19 violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1591(a)(1),
20 1591(a)(2) and 2 and Pinkerton v. United States, 328 U.S. 640 (1946).

21 **Count 5**

22 **Sex Trafficking by Force, Fraud and Coercion**

23 In or about September 2011, within the Southern District of
24 California, and elsewhere, defendant DOUGLAS WIEDERHOLD, aka "James,"
25 knowingly, in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce, recruited,
26 enticed, harbored, transported, provided, obtained, maintained,
27 patronized, and solicited Victim 4, and benefitted financially and by
28 receiving anything of value from participation in a venture, which

1 recruited, enticed, harbored, transported, provided, obtained, and
2 maintained Victim 4, knowing and in reckless disregard of the fact that
3 means of force, threats of force, fraud, coercion, and any combination
4 of such means, would be used to cause Victim 4 to engage in a
5 commercial sex act; in violation of Title 18, United States Code,
6 Sections 1591(a)(1), 1591(a)(2) and 2 and Pinkerton v. United States,
7 328 U.S. 640 (1946).

8 **Count 6**

9 **Sex Trafficking by Force, Fraud and Coercion**

10 In or about March 2012, within the Southern District of California,
11 and elsewhere, defendant DOUGLAS WIEDERHOLD, aka "James," knowingly, in
12 and affecting interstate and foreign commerce, recruited, enticed,
13 harbored, transported, provided, obtained, maintained, patronized, and
14 solicited Victim 5, and benefitted financially and by receiving anything
15 of value from participation in a venture, which recruited, enticed,
16 harbored, transported, provided, obtained, and maintained Victim 5,
17 knowing and in reckless disregard of the fact that means of force,
18 threats of force, fraud, coercion, and any combination of such means,
19 would be used to cause Victim 5 to engage in a commercial sex act; in
20 violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1591(a)(1),
21 1591(a)(2) and 2 and Pinkerton v. United States, 328 U.S. 640 (1946).

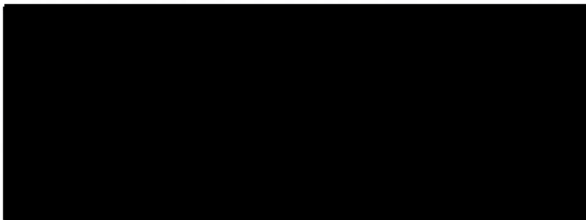
22 **FORFEITURE ALLEGATIONS**

23 The allegations contained in Counts 1 through 6 above are re-
24 alleged herein and incorporated as a part hereof for purposes of seeking
25 forfeiture of property of defendant DOUGLAS WIEDERHOLD, aka "James," to
26 the United States pursuant to Title 18, United States Code,
27 Section 1594(d).


1 Upon conviction of one and more of the offenses in Counts 1
2 through 6, which involve violations of Title 18, United States Code,
3 Sections 1591 and 1594, defendant DOUGLAS WIEDERHOLD, aka "James," shall
4 forfeit, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1594(d)
5 and (e), all right, title, and interest in (1) any property, real or
6 personal, constituting or derived from, any proceeds obtained, directly
7 or indirectly, as a result of the offenses; and (2) any property, real
8 or personal, used or intended to be used to commit or to facilitate the
9 commission of the offenses.

10 If any of the property described above, as a result of any act or
11 omission of defendant DOUGLAS WIEDERHOLD, aka "James," cannot be located
12 upon the exercise of due diligence; has been transferred or sold to, or
13 deposited with, a third party; has been placed beyond the jurisdiction
14 of the court; has been substantially diminished in value; or has been
15 commingled with other property which cannot be divided without
16 difficulty, the United States shall be entitled to forfeiture of
17 substitute property up to the value of the property described above,
18 pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1594(d).

19 DATED: June 21, 2023.



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23 RANDY S. GROSSMAN
United States Attorney

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25 By: 
26 ALEXANDRA F. FOSTER
Assistant U.S. Attorney