

washingtonpost.com > Arts & Leisure > Entertainment News

Print This Article  
E-Mail This Article

Featured Advertisement  
XEROX

MOST VIEWED ARTICLES

- [Bush Signs Approved Schiavo Measure](#)
- [Congo's Desperate 'One-Dollar U.N. Girls'](#)
- [Negroponte's Time in Honduras at Issue](#)

RSS NEWS FEEDS

Top News  
Entertainment News  
What is RSS? | All RSS Feeds

## Jackson Arrested on Child Molestation Charges

Pop Superstar Arrives at Santa Barbara Jail in Handcuffs

By William Branigin  
Washington Post Staff Writer  
Thursday, November 20, 2003; 5:43 PM

Pop singer Michael Jackson, long one of the world's most popular entertainers, was arrested today in California on allegations of molesting a child and brought to a county jail in handcuffs before being released on \$3 million bond.

A spokesman for the Santa Barbara County sheriff's department, Chris Pappas, said Jackson now faces a Jan. 9, 2004, arraignment date in Santa Barbara Superior Court to answer formal charges in the case. Officials said he will be charged with "multiple counts" of felony child molestation, reportedly for incidents at his Neverland Ranch involving a 12-year-old boy.

Spokesmen for Jackson strongly denied the accusation.

Pappas said Jackson surrendered his passport during a booking process that took "approximately 30 to 45 minutes" and "was completed without incident." He added that "Mr. Jackson's people were very cooperative throughout this process."

Jackson, 45, flew in to Santa Barbara today aboard a private jet to surrender after authorities announced yesterday that an arrest warrant had been issued for him. He was immediately escorted to the county sheriff's department for booking.

Wearing a dark suit and with his hands cuffed behind him, Jackson was brought into the county jail by a back entrance shortly before 12:30 p.m. local time (3:30 p.m. EST). He was helped out of an unmarked police car in front of a door away from a throng of journalists who had been awaiting him for hours.

A little more than an hour later, Jackson left the sheriff's department with his attorney and other members of his entourage in a black Suburban SUV. Before getting into the vehicle, he waved to reporters, flashed a V sign and blew a kiss. The Suburban then drove away escorted by three sheriff's motorcycle officers.

During the procedures at the jail, Jackson was photographed and fingerprinted. Law enforcement authorities said he was required to surrender his passport so that he could not flee the country. But they



Michael Jackson is shown in a Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department booking mug shot. (Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Dept. - AP)

Graphic  
Timeline: Jackson's Career

From The Post  
Michael Jackson Faces Arrest  
(The Washington Post, Nov 20, 2003)

Free E-mail Newsletters  
Today's Headlines & Columnists  
See a Sample | Sign Up Now  
Breaking News Alerts  
See a Sample | Sign Up Now

declined immediately to disclose any other possible conditions of release, including any other travel restrictions or conditions involving his three children.

Speaking in front of the sheriff's headquarters shortly before 1 p.m. (4 p.m. EST), Jackson's attorney, Mark Geragos, told reporters his client had "already posted the bond" and was "processed out" of custody.

He said Jackson was "greatly outraged" by the charges and considers them "to be a big lie." He added, "Michael has given me the authority to say on his behalf these charges are categorically untrue. He looks forward to getting into a courtroom, as opposed to any other forum, and confronting these accusations head on."

In a news conference yesterday, Thomas W. Sneddon Jr., the Santa Barbara County district attorney, and Jim Anderson, the county sheriff, said Jackson faced "multiple counts" of felony child molestation. One of his attorneys said the allegations involve a 12-year-old boy, reportedly one of a number of children whom Jackson invited to stay at his Neverland Ranch.

If convicted, Jackson faces three to eight years in prison on each count. Sneddon declined to specify the number of counts or provide other details of the case.

In a telephone interview with CNN shortly after Jackson's arrest, one of his brothers, Jermaine Jackson, said, "The whole family supports Michael 100 percent, 1,000 percent. Michael is innocent."

He added, "Michael is in very strong spirits because he is innocent." He asserted that "my brother is not eccentric" and vowed that "we will fight" the child molestation charges.

SEARCH:  News  Web



powered by **YAHOO!** SEARCH

A twin-engine Gulfstream jet carrying the troubled singer arrived at the Santa Barbara County airport shortly after 11:45 a.m. local time (2:45 p.m. EST) from Las Vegas, where he had been shooting a music video. His entourage went to great lengths to avoid photographers at the airport. As television news helicopters hovered overhead, the plane pulled its nose into a hangar and the hangar doors closed to within a few feet of the fuselage, shielding the steps of the plane from view.

A convoy of cars later brought Jackson and Geragos to the sheriff's department. Geragos is also a defense attorney in the high-profile Laci Peterson murder case.

Geragos said earlier that he had "made arrangements with the sheriff and the district attorney for Mr. Jackson to come back and confront these charges."

An attorney for the Jackson family, Brian Oxman, told the CBS News Early Show that Michael Jackson "does not want to make a spectacle of this."

In yesterday's news conference, Sneddon said California state law has changed as a result of a 1993 case in which Jackson was accused of molesting a 13-year-old boy. The boy's family filed a civil suit against Jackson and decided not to press criminal charges, reportedly in exchange for a \$15 million settlement. The boy refused to testify in any criminal case, and no charges against Jackson were filed.

In a press release yesterday, Sneddon said one of the factors that is different about the current investigation is that, unlike in 1993, state law "no longer allows [a] child victim who obtains [a] civil settlement to refuse to testify." Sneddon made similar remarks in the news conference.

However, legal experts disputed that interpretation today, saying that a child still cannot be compelled to testify in a child molestation or other case. What has changed, they said, is that once a child makes a statement to law enforcement authorities about being molested, that

statement can still be used to prosecute the case even if the child subsequently refuses to testify.

Sneddon emphasized in the press release that in this case, "We have a cooperative victim." He said at the news conference that the family has not filed a civil suit and was not expected to do so.

<a href="#">Print This Article</a>	<a href="#">E-Mail This Article</a>	<a href="#">Permission to Republish</a>
Featured Advertisement <b>XEROX</b>		

© 2003 The Washington Post Company

<b>Advertising Links</b>	What's this?
<b>MyCashNow - \$100 - \$1,000 Overnight</b> Payday Loan Cash goes in your account overnight. Very low fees. Fast decisions. Direct deposit is not required. No credit check. Confidential - secure. <a href="http://www.mycashnow.com">www.mycashnow.com</a>	
<b>Refinance Rates Hit Record Lows</b> Get \$150,000 loan for \$625 per month. Refinance while rates are low. <a href="http://www.lowermybills.com">www.lowermybills.com</a>	
<b>Accredited Online Degree</b> Earn an accredited AA, BS, MS, MBA or Doctoral degree 100% online. <a href="http://www.univofphoenixonline.com">www.univofphoenixonline.com</a>	

Advertisement

[Top 20 E-mailed Articles](#)

---

© Copyright 1996-2005 The Washington Post Company | [User Agreement and Privacy Policy](#) | [Rights and Permissions](#) | [Home](#)

---

**washingtonpost.com:** [Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Work at washingtonpost.com](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Media Center](#) | [Site Index](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Archives](#)  
E-mail Newsletters | [RSS Feeds](#) | [Wireless Access](#) | [Our headlines on your site](#) | [Make Us Your Homepage](#) | [mywashingtonpost.com](#)  
**The Washington Post:** [Subscribe](#) | [Subscriber Services](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Electronic Edition](#) | [Online Photo Store](#) | [The Washington Post Store](#)  
**The Washington Post Company:** [Information](#) | [Other Post Co. Websites](#)

---