

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Sheriff - Coroner - Public Administrator



ISSUE: 25-36

TRAINING BULLETIN

DATE: June 25, 2025

California Senate Bill 442: Sexual Battery Amendments

On September 29, 2024, California Governor Newsom signed SB 442, which made it a crime to cause another person—against their will—to masturbate or touch an intimate part of themselves, the accused, or a third person for sexual arousal, gratification, or abuse. Pursuant to SB 442, effective January 1, 2025, Subsection (e)(1) of Penal Code 243.4 was amended to read as follows:

“Any person who touches an intimate part of another person, if the touching is against the will of the person touched, and is for the specific purpose of sexual arousal, sexual gratification, or sexual abuse, ***or any person who, for the purpose of sexual arousal, sexual gratification, or sexual abuse, causes another, against that person’s will, to masturbate or touch an intimate part of either of those persons or a third person,*** is guilty of misdemeanor sexual battery, punishable by a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars (\$2,000), or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding six months, or by both that fine and imprisonment. However, if the defendant was an employer and the victim was an employee of the defendant, the misdemeanor sexual battery shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding three thousand dollars (\$3,000), by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding six months, or by both that fine and imprisonment. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any amount of a fine above two thousand dollars (\$2,000) which is collected from a defendant for a violation of this subdivision shall be transmitted to the State Treasury and, upon appropriation by the Legislature, distributed to the Civil Rights Department for the purpose of enforcement of the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (Part 2.8 (commencing with Section 12900) of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code), including, but not limited to, laws that proscribe sexual harassment in places of employment. However, in no event shall an amount over two thousand dollars (\$2,000) be transmitted to the State Treasury until all fines, including any restitution fines that may have been imposed upon the defendant, have been paid in full.”

Personnel are reminded of the importance of documenting victim statements thoroughly, especially when coercion or restraint is involved, to ensure proper classification between misdemeanor and felony sexual battery cases and Penal Code 243.4, which can be accessed via the link below:

- [California Code, PEN 243.4.](#)

By acknowledging this training bulletin, you are indicating you have read the training bulletin and reviewed PC 243.4 via the above link. All sworn personnel in the Deputy Sheriff, Detentions Deputy, and Park Ranger Ranks are required to review and acknowledge this training bulletin no later than **July 25, 2025**.