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**SEX OFFENDER PLEADS GUILTY TO VIOLATING ORDER OF PROTECTION
AND FAILING TO REGISTER SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS**

*Defendant Contacted Rape Victim With LinkedIn Request;
Also Possessed Child Pornography on Cell Phone;
Faces Up to Three Years in Prison at Sentencing*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 42-year-old Jackson Heights man has pleaded guilty to contempt of court for contacting the young woman whom he pleaded guilty to raping in 2012 when the victim was just 15 years old. While investigating this crime, law enforcement discovered that the defendant failed to register several online social media accounts - which is required of all sex offenders - and additionally the defendant's cell phone was found to contain several images of children being sexually abused.

District Attorney Brown said, "In light of the recent ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that sex offenders can not be excluded from the internet or social media, it is imperative that those on the registry abide by the rules of the Division of Criminal Justice Services and identify their email accounts, screen names and any other online identifiers. In pleading guilty, the defendant admitted to violating the order of protection against contacting the young woman he victimized five years ago. For this and for failing to register his online identifiers and for the photos of children being sexually abuse that were found on his phone, the defendant will go to prison."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Vernon Corbett, 42, of 77th Street in Jackson Heights, Queens. The defendant pleaded guilty Thursday, July 13, 2017, to attempted possession of a sexual performance by a child before Queens Criminal Court Judge Gia Morris, who indicated she will sentence the defendant to one year of incarceration on September 15, 2017. On Friday, July 14, 2017, Corbett pleaded guilty to first-degree falsifying business records and second-degree criminal contempt before Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice Barry Kron, who set sentencing for July 31, 2017. At that time, Corbett will be sentenced to 1 ½ to 3 years in prison. The defendant also pleaded guilty to violating his probation and will face 1 to 3 years' incarceration. All sentences will run concurrently.

According to the criminal charges, said District Attorney Brown, the young woman contacted both the police and Corbett's probation officer notifying them that in June 2016, the defendant sent her a LinkedIn request. The young woman has an active order of protection barring the defendant from contacting her in person or online. Upon investigating this case, the probation officer discovered that Corbett had failed to list his online identifiers with the New York Division of Criminal Justice Services, which is required by law of all sex offenders. The investigation found that Corbett had both gmail and yahoo email accounts and was active on LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram. Additionally, there was child pornography on the defendant's cell phone.

Assistant District Attorneys Jamie-Lynn Burns, of District Attorney Brown's Organized Crime and Rackets Bureau, prosecuted the case with the assistance District Attorney Kateri A. Gasper, Chief of the District Attorney's Computer Crimes Unit, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Gerard A. Brave, Chief of the District Attorney's Organized Crime and Rackets Bureau, and Catherine C. Kane and Mary M. Lowenburg, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco.

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Note to Editor: E-version of this press release posted at www.queensda.org.