



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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*****NEWS RELEASE*****

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Hanford Man Arrested After Targeting 15-Year-Old on Instagram

On January 13, 2026, a detective with the Visalia Police Department's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Unit was contacted by a 15-year-old who reported being approached on Instagram by a 19-year-old man. The teen told investigators that the suspect attempted to arrange a meeting for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity and requested nude and other inappropriate images.

Following an investigation, detectives identified the suspect as 19-year-old Jossue Penaloza of Hanford, California. On February 13, 2026, Penaloza was taken into custody without incident. He was booked into the Tulare County Pre-Trial Facility on charges of Penal Code 288.3(a) (Contact with a Minor for Sexual Offenses), and Penal Code 311.11(a) (Possession of Child Sexual Abuse Material).

Detectives believe there may be additional victims. Anyone with information is urged to contact Detective D. Nelson at (559) 734-8116. To remain anonymous, call the anonymous tip line at (559) 713-4738.

The Visalia Police Department reminds parents and guardians to stay actively involved in their children's online activity and to monitor who they are communicating with on social media platforms.

Let this serve as a clear warning: targeting children online will not be tolerated. Law enforcement will pursue those who exploit or attempt to exploit minors, and they will be held fully accountable.

As always, if you see something suspicious, say something. Silence only protects predators.

