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Pedophile Slapped with Statewide Order

CHATSWORTH - Self-proclaimed pedophile Jack McClellan is no longer allowed to go near children in California, a Superior Court judge ruled Friday.

In upholding a temporary restraining order seeking to bar McClellan from attending places in Santa Clarita where children gather, Judge Melvin D. Sandvig shocked lawyers when he expanded the scope of their order to include all of California.

"The restraining order is not going to be restricted to the city of Santa Clarita," Judge Sandvig said. "Should the defendant fail to obey the court orders, he'd be subject to a fine or jail."

Local lawyers Anthony D. Zinnanti and Richard Patterson, who each have law offices in the Valencia Oaks Building on Valencia Boulevard, filed the injunction against McClellan on Tuesday after having read about his plans to return to Santa Clarita in The Signal.

Once he had the restraining order in his hand, Zinnanti chased McClellan to Los Angeles International Airport to serve him with it, said Patterson.

McClellan was reportedly boarding a plane to Chicago for a TV appearance there.

"We got a tip that (McClellan) was at the Van Nuys library and then we got another tip that he was trying to get out of town," Patterson said. "Anthony and my son, Dylan, caught up with him on American Airlines flight 1642 scheduled to leave at 2:30 p.m. The flight was delayed a little.

"The airport police helped (Zinnanti and Dylan Patterson), opened the terminal gates and, like a tight end they ran to the gate," said Patterson, using a football analogy to describe the frantic foot chase across the tarmac.

"They got him off the airplane," he said. "Dylan served him and Anthony videotaped it on his phone."

McClellan, who has not been charged with any crime despite the restraining order against him, boarded a plane to Chicago as planned.

The restraining order, which is valid for the next three years, states he must not:

"Harass, attack, strike, threaten, assault sexually or otherwise, hit, follow, stalk, keep under surveillance or block the movements or loiter with, or around, any minor child.

"Contact directly or indirectly, telephone, send messages or mail, e-mail, photograph, videotape or post on the Internet or otherwise record any image of a minor child without the parent or guardian's written consent."

"Take any action directly or through others to obtain the addresses of any of these minor children."

McClellan, 45, who told The Signal on Monday that he is attracted to young girls, is now ordered to stay at least 10 yards away from any child in California and not to loiter where minor children congregate including, but not limited to, schools, parks and playgrounds. He said he came to Santa Clarita on June 9, where he watched girls at a bowling alley and at the San Fernando Valley Fair.

He was not in court Friday.

After the judge issued his statewide ban restricting McClellan's movements, Zinnanti and Patterson were elated and surprised.

"This is so explosive," Zinnanti told reporters. "I asked for very narrowly tailored relief and we had very good grounds upon which to get this. I left a big open space for the judge to write in what he thought was just and he certainly wrote in what he thought was just.

"Jack has to stay away from kids," he added. "He cannot come anywhere near a minor child. And, so, the fact of the matter is, wherever there are kids, there ain't no Jack."

Zinnanti and Patterson wasted no time trying to notify Jack and police throughout the state

about the court ruling.

"I'm sure law enforcement will be very effective in getting this executed" said an exhausted Zinnanti. "I've got to find Jack. I'm going to put my sneakers on and go find Jack."

As he turned away from reporters, Zinnanti stepped back to the microphone to say: "Today is for (murder victims) Polly Klass, Samantha Runnion, for the kids that have been victims of people like McClellan. To their parents, I wish you could be with your kids today."

At that point, Zinnanti started to cry and turned away from reporters. He then drove away from the courthouse and the chase to catch McClellan was on.

Attempts by The Signal to contact McClellan on Friday were unsuccessful.

Friday's court hearing was the first of several steps required to make the order permanent. The next court date is set for Aug. 24.

McClellan, who has defended his views on pedophilia on the grounds of free speech, is expected to defend his position in court.

"He still has the right to come to court and still has the right to have his attorneys defend him and prove to the court that he is not a danger and not a risk to our children," Patterson said.