



OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Stanislaus County  
Courthouse  
800 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 200  
Modesto, CA 95354  
Mailing: P. O. Box 442, Modesto, CA 95353  
Phone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 525-5545

**Birgit Fladager**  
**District Attorney**  
Carol Shipley  
Assistant District Attorney  
Chief Deputy District Attorneys  
Jerry Begen  
Steve Casey  
John Goold  
Dave Harris

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: John J. Goold

Date: August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Chief Deputy District Attorney

Re: Garcia jury trial felony conviction Court # 1102475

Phone: 209-525-5550

**Modesto, California** – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Daniel Garcia, age 24, of Hanford, CA was convicted on Friday of three felony counts of child molestation, and 1 misdemeanor count of child exploitation, after a 5-day jury trial. Deputy District Attorney Annette Rees prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

Garcia was charged with felony counts alleging that he molested the 10-year-old child of his former girlfriend over a three-year period. Garcia came to the attention of law enforcement after he turned in a disposable camera to a Rite Aid store in Hanford to develop the film. The store manager became concerned when he saw the photographs and contacted Hanford Police Dept. The defendant's tattoo, DNA testing, and a small birthmark on the victim helped police determine the identify of those shown in the photographs and led to an investigation and prosecution in Stanislaus County where the acts had occurred.

Stanislaus County Judge Loretta Murphy Begen presided over the jury trial. On Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006, after deliberating two days, the jury returned guilty verdicts on all counts. Upon conviction, Judge Begen remanded Garcia to the custody of the Sheriff pending sentencing.

Garcia returns to Judge Begen's court on September 11<sup>th</sup> for pronouncement of judgment. He faces a maximum of 12 years in state prison and must serve at least 85% of any time imposed. Garcia must also register as a sex offender for the rest of his life. He will be eligible for evaluation under the Sexually Violent Predator statute which may result in additional court proceedings to extend his commitment if he is eventually determined to meet the criteria of the statute.

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