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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: October 20, 2010  
Re: John Ralph Onate  
6 Years, 8 Months Prison for  
Child Molest charges

**For More Information Contact:**

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that John Ralph Onate, age 59, of Delhi, was convicted on October 20, 2010 of lewd act upon a child and lewd act upon a child 14 or 15 years of age, both felonies. Deputy District Attorney Elaine G. Casillas prosecuted the case for the People.

An 8-year-old child reported Onate had been inappropriately touching her from February through August 2008. During the investigation, law enforcement learned Onate had engaged in similar conduct with another child several years earlier. This second victim, now an adult, was present in court and asked Deputy District Attorney Casillas to read a short statement in court. "I will never forget. But I do forgive you."

Upon entry of the guilty pleas, the Honorable Ricardo Cordova sentenced Onate to 6 years and 8 months prison. One charge is a strike pursuant to California's "Three Strikes" law. Onate will have to register as a sex offender pursuant to Penal Code Section 290.

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