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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: January 3, 2014
Re: Jesus Mario Villarreal

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jesus Mario Villarreal, age 37, of Modesto was sentenced to 44 years to life by the Honorable Ricardo Cordova for two felony counts of aggravated sexual assault on a child, one felony count of Continuous Sexual Assault of a child under the age of 14, four felony counts of Penetration by a Foreign Object on a Child under 14, one felony count of Oral Copulation on a child under the age of 14 and one misdemeanor count of possession of child pornography. The case was set to begin jury selection on November 12, 2013 when Villarreal pled no contest to all charges. Judge Cordova indicated to Villarreal and his attorney, Frank Carson, that he would be willing to sentence the defendant to the mitigated term in exchange for his plea to all charges. There was no plea bargain offer from Deputy District Attorney Annette Rees who prosecuted the case for the People. Villarreal faced a potential maximum sentence of 76 years to life.

Judge Cordova heard arguments from both sides prior to sentencing Villarreal in December. DDA Rees detailed the acts committed on the particular day in question. It is settled law that the other counts, occurring on different days would require consecutive sentences. "The law provides for consecutive sentences when the acts occur on separate dates or separate occasions," Rees argued. "The defendant had adequate opportunity to reflect and cease his sexual assaults on this child. He did not. Regardless of the amount of time that passed, or the fact that the location did not change, the statute specifically allows for consecutive punishment when the defendant could have stopped, but did not." Judge Cordova agreed and denied defendant's request for 42 years.