



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Assistant District Attorney
David P. Harris

Chief Deputies
Annette Rees
Douglas K. Raynaud
Marlisa Ferreira
Stephen R. Robinson

Bureau of Investigation
Lt. David Hutchinson
Lt. Froilan Mariscal

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: August 27, 2018
Re: Benjamin Clinton Cardenas
Child molest convictions and prison sentence

For More Information Contact:

John Goold, Public Information Liaison
Phone: (209) 525-6909

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Benjamin Clinton Cardenas, age 26, of Modesto, CA, was convicted on August 21, 2018 of two felony crimes: sodomy by force and oral copulation by force upon a child under the age of 14 years. Deputy District Attorney Sameer Shukla prosecuted the case for the People.

In August of 2016, Cardenas committed both sodomy by force and oral copulation by force on his 7-year-old step-daughter. The child disclosed what happened to authorities who then questioned Cardenas. Cardenas put the blame on the child as the one instigating the sexual contact but admitted he enjoyed it and that he fantasized about touching and being touched by young girls. At the end of the interview, he wrote the victim a letter of apology.

Upon entry of the no contest plea, Judge Rick Distaso sentenced Cardenas to 25 years in state prison. The defendant will be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life. Each conviction is also considered a "strike" under California's "Three Strikes" law and may be used to increase any punishment should Cardenas be convicted of a new felony crime in the future.

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