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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: 3-17-08
Re: Jesus Mario Villarreal

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jesus Mario Villarreal, age 32, of Modesto was sentenced to 30 years to life in prison by the Honorable Ricardo Cordova, following an emotional impact statement by the mother of the 10-year-old victim. Villarreal was found guilty by his plea on March 4 to two counts of Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child under the age of 14, committed in 2005. The victim was related to Villarreal. Deputy District Attorney Annette Rees prosecuted the case, and read the victim's impact statement prepared by the female victim, now 13 years old. "You're a person who just makes the world a horrible place. There isn't even words to describe how horrible and cruel and disgusting you are. I hope you die in jail. I hope the guys there burn your ass, hang you", Rees read in open court as the victim watched from the audience.

"This victim and her mother have held in those words for three long, torturous years," explained Rees, "that sentiment was very real, and very justified." The defendant remained out on bail for almost two years while he hired two different private attorneys, and then stopped paying them, delaying any possibility of proceeding to trial. In March of 2007, Judge Cordova issued a one million dollar bench warrant for the defendant's arrest. Villarreal was located in Arizona, living under the name of Cesar Lopez. He had several other false identification documents at the Arizona home. Villarreal had abandoned his sister's vehicle in Anaheim, purchased a new cell phone, and skipped out on his bail. He was returned to California in custody, to await trial. Even while a jury pool waited in the Courthouse basement on March 4, 2008, Villarreal tried to hire yet another attorney, and de-rail the proceedings once again.

Before being led away in chains, to be transported to prison, Villarreal tried to convince the Judge to allow him to withdraw his plea. Judge Cordova took little time to re-affirm the sentence, "based on what I've heard today, and the facts you admitted to, this is a very just sentence for this case." Villarreal's request for a stay of transportation to prison was denied. "It is time for closure for these victims," argued Rees. The victim's words still echoed in the quiet courtroom, "A monster in disguise is what I'd use to think of you. What I think of you right now... You don't even want to know."

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