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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: January 13, 2009
Re: Eric Albarico - Child Molester
Sentenced to Six Years in State Prison

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Eric Albarico, age 32, of Modesto, was sentenced to six years in prison after a jury convicted him of 4 felony counts of sexual abuse of a 13 year old girl in July, 2008. Deputy District Attorney Annette Rees prosecuted the case.

The defendant, Albarico, was romantically involved with the victim's aunt, and resided in the girl's home. "He had known her since she was 7 years old. He watched her play. How was she to process his sexual-ization of her? Children comply – they don't consent." Rees argued in her closing statement to the jury. When the victim was 13 years old, Albarico began to molest her and continued for several months until the victim finally disclosed to her aunt what was happening to her. Albarico was convicted of all counts against him: Lewd Act upon a Child under the age of 14; Annoying or Molesting a child of 14 or 15; Oral Copulation of a Child under 16 years of age; and Penetration by Foreign object of a Child under the age of 16.

The victim delivered her emotional impact statement to Judge Whiteside in August, "I always thought once the verdict was read, this would all be over. But in reality, it isn't. My family and I still have to deal with the day to day mood-swings, nightmares, and tears. I trusted you to become a father role model for me. You took so many things away from me." She and her family were present to watch the defendant sentenced to prison. "The victim and her family asked me to convey their sincere gratitude to the jury on this case. They listened carefully, they deliberated thoughtfully, and they announced justice for this victim after two long years," said Rees.

Albarico will have to serve 85% of his six year sentence before being eligible for parole. The crime of Lewd Act with a Child under the age of 14 is categorized as a serious and violent felony, and is a strike offense for any subsequent felony conviction. Additionally, Albarico will be subject to evaluation as a Sexually Violent Predator and will have to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life. According to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, all active sex offender parolees are now monitored with GPS devices during the duration of their parole.