



OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Stanislaus County  
832 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300  
Modesto, CA 95354  
Mailing address: POB 442, Modesto, CA 95353  
Telephone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 558-4027

**Birgit Fladager**  
**District Attorney**

Carol Shipley  
Assistant District Attorney

Chief Deputy District Attorneys

Alan Cassidy  
Dave Harris  
Doug Raynaud

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: November 18, 2013  
Re: Jesus Mario Villarreal

**For More Information Contact:**

Carol Shipley, Assistant District Attorney  
Phone: (209) 525-5550

**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jesus Mario Villarreal, age 37, of Modesto was convicted of 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. Villarreal pled to all charges after Judge Ricardo Cordova indicated to Villarreal and his attorney, Frank Carson, that he would be willing to sentence Villarreal to a mitigated term of either 42 or 44 years to life. Deputy District Attorney Annette Rees, who prosecuted the case for the People, did not offer any form of a plea bargain.

“There are no mitigating circumstances in this case. There is an overwhelming amount of aggravating factors here. This defendant does not deserve a mitigated sentence for raping a 10 year old.” Rees detailed a factual basis for the court that consisted of multiple sex acts over a time period from September 2004 through May of 2005. Rees also recounted how the victim described the defendant throwing a baby blanket over her face when he would threaten her, tell her to “shut up,” sexually assault her, and film it. The victim was able to see flashes of light from holes in the blanket during some of the assaults. A search of Villarreal’s car and apartment uncovered a laptop computer and camera which were seized and forensically examined. Photos and video clips of the defendant’s acts upon the victim were recovered.

In April of 2007, Villarreal, who was out of custody on \$500,000 bail, failed to show up for court. DA Investigator Kirk Bunch tracked Villareal to Arizona via a cell phone. Villareal had purchased a new cell phone before fleeing California and discarded the package. Bunch tracked the cell number and the calls made which led him to Arizona where Villarreral was renting a room under the name Cesar Perez. Villarreal was arrested and transported back to Stanislaus County for prosecution.

“A trusted adult, a vulnerable 10 year old victim, repeated sexual assaults, and a man who fled from the Court to escape prosecution. This is a depraved individual who does not deserve any mercy from this Court,” argued Rees. A sentencing hearing is scheduled for December 16, 2013. Villarreal was facing a maximum sentence of 54 years to life.