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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: August 8, 2014
Re: Sammy Eddie Provencio

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Sammy Eddie Provencio, age 38, of Ceres, was sentenced to 27 years to life for domestic violence, criminal threats and maliciously destroying a cell phone. Provenico was found guilty of these charges by a jury. Judge Linda McFadden found at a court trial that Provencio had served three prior prison terms and had two prior convictions which fall under California's "Three Strikes" law. Deputy District Attorney Beth O'Hara Owen prosecuted the case for the People.

On December 19, 2012, officers from the Ceres Police Department were dispatched to an address in Ceres to perform a security check. The reporting party advised she had received a call from her sister that her sister had been beaten by her husband, Provencio. A check for local warrants and parole status revealed that Provencio was on Post Release Community Supervision for domestic violence.

Once officers arrived at the residence, everyone in the vicinity of the home denied that Provencio was present. Officers returned to their patrol cars to call the reporting party to confirm the address. The sister was adamant that the victim and Provencio were both still there and she begged the officers to not leave until they made contact. The officers approached the home once again and a person gestured slightly, with her hand, that Provencio was in the home. He was found hiding in the backyard.

The victim was interviewed and told the officers she had suffered a beating several days previously as well as earlier that day. Provencio pushed her down, grabbed her by the hair and punched her in the back of the head, repeatedly, with a clenched fist. He punched and kicked her body leaving multiple large bruises. Her 22-month-old son was present during the entire beating. Provencio threatened, "If you call the police and I get arrested, I'll kill you and the baby." Earlier, Provencio destroyed her cellular phone when she tried to call for help. After the officers arrested Provencio and were escorting him to the patrol car, he started to yell at the victim, intimidating her further.

While in custody, pending trial, Provencio sent multiple letters threatening her. Although the victim sought refuge in a safe house out of the county, he continued to hunt the victim down, wrote letters to her new address and threatened her.

At the sentencing hearing, Judge McFadden struck one of the prison priors to reduce the sentence by one year to reward Provencio for completing some self-help courses while in custody.

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