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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: October 17, 2017
Re: Mark Edward Mesiti
Capital murder conviction

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Mark Edward Mesiti, age 49, of Modesto, has been convicted of first degree murder with four special circumstances, and forty-eight other felony sexual assault crimes. Chief Deputy District Attorney Annette Rees prosecuted this case on behalf of the People.

In August of 2007, Mesiti's 14-year-old biological daughter, Alycia, was reported missing. Almost two years later, on March 25, 2009, her remains were located buried in the backyard of what had been the Mesiti home in Ceres. An autopsy determined she had died of acute drug intoxication. Testing of the body showed the presence of opiates, morphine, amphetamine, methamphetamine, benzodiazepines, diazepam, methadone, and anti-depressants.

Detectives arrested Mesiti in Los Angeles where he was living at the time. A search of his apartment revealed he was operating a methamphetamine laboratory. Police also recovered several computers, hard drives, DVDs, CDs and other digital media.

Forensic computer examination revealed Mesiti was in possession of hundreds of thousands of images involving child pornography. Hundreds of those images showed Mesiti's daughter being sexually assaulted while she was obviously unconscious. Videos also showed the defendant setting up a hidden camera in the bedroom of an 8-year-old girl who lived in the apartment with him and his girlfriend at the time. Other videos and images showed a 16-year-old female Mesiti had befriended being sexually assaulted.

Mesiti was arrested and charged with murder with special circumstances in the death of his daughter, making him eligible for the death penalty, as well as forty-eight other felony sexual assault charges. After several weeks of ongoing jury trial, the defense offered to have Mesiti plead to all the counts charged if the District Attorney's Office would agree to not seek the death penalty. In return, Mesiti would be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. As a condition of accepting that offer, Chief Deputy District Attorney Annette Rees required Mesiti to make a personal and public allocution of all his crimes in open court.

This morning, October 17, 2017, Mesiti pled to all the crimes charged against him. He publicly admitted in court that on several occasions he had given controlled substances including prescription anti-depressants, benzodiazepines, morphine, methadone to his 14-year-old daughter for the purpose of rendering her unconscious and with the specific intent to sexually assault her.

Mesiti told the court he committed rape, sodomy, oral copulation, digital penetration and child molestation involving his daughter, Alycia, many times over several different occasions. He admitted having given Alycia drugs on each occasion to make her unable to resist his attacks. Mesiti also admitted that his administration of those drugs caused Alycia's death.

Finally, Mesiti admitted taking many sexually explicit photographs of his daughter Alycia and two other minors under eighteen years old. He also said he molested the other two minors while he lived in Los Angeles.

Upon conclusion of the hour-long plea involving all forty-nine counts charged in the indictment, Judge Dawna Frenchie Reeves found Mesiti guilty of those crimes. Judge Reeves set the case for sentencing and victim impact statements on November 28, 2017 in Department 1 of the Stanislaus County Superior Court.

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