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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: January 9, 2019
Re: Gerald Wayne Morse
Prison Sentence

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Gerald Wayne Morse, age 41, of Modesto, who was convicted on October 11, 2018 of 4 counts of Lewd Acts Upon a Child after jury trial, was sentenced to 40 years-to-life in prison. Deputy District Attorney Erin Schwartz prosecuted the case for the People.

In March of 2016, Jane Doe 1 disclosed to her mother that the Defendant, a relative, molested her two times on two separate occasions; she was 7 years old. Jane Doe 2 and Jane Doe 3, the defendant's step-children, then told their mom that several years before, the defendant had also molested them. It wasn't until Jane Doe 1 disclosed the abuse that they felt safe to do the same.

When officers with the Modesto Police Department arrived to investigate, the defendant admitted that he would wake up in Jane Doe 2 and 3's bedroom and he would be touching Jane Doe 3 under her clothing. He further acknowledged that this had happened several years ago and had made efforts to mend the damage he had caused. He claimed to remember very little about this time in his life due to the medications he was taking.

Because of a multiple victim enhancement found true by the jury, the defendant was statutorily ineligible for probation. The defendant was facing 90 years-to-life in prison. Judge Bessey sentenced him to 40 years-to-life, choosing to run two of the counts concurrent. Judge Bessey stated that the defendant had failed "to take responsibility for what he's done and the long-term, traumatic effect his actions have had on these girls." If released, the defendant will remain on parole for the rest of his life. He will also be required to register as a sex offender for the remainder of his life.

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