

*** NEWS RELEASE ***
**SALINAS MAN SENTENCED
TO 24 YEARS IN PRISON
FOR FORCIBLE CHILD MOLESTATION**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Judge Mark Hood sentenced Roberto Flores Bernal, age 53, of Salinas, to a term of 24 years in state prison for three counts of forcible lewd acts on a child under 14. The defendant must serve a minimum of 85% of his sentence before being eligible for parole, and will be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life. The charges constitute three “strikes” under California’s Three Strikes Law.

During the months of July and August of this year, the defendant repeatedly forced an 8 year old female relative to engage in sex acts with him. The defendant threatened the girl to keep her from telling anyone about the abuse. The abuse of this young child was discovered when a relative of the defendant and the little girl observed inappropriate contact between the two and urged the child’s mother to speak to the girl. The victim then disclosed to her mother what the defendant had done to her.

The case was investigated by Officers Masahiro Yoneda and Gerardo Magana of the Salinas Police Department.