

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS BUSINESS OWNER SENTENCED FOR FELONY SEXUAL BATTERY BY FRAUD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Megan Carter

Deputy District Attorney

(831) 784-5693

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Salvador Mondragon, age 41 and a resident of Salinas, was sentenced to three years of formal probation and 150 days county jail for committing two felony counts of sexual battery by fraud. He will have to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life. Mondragon was sentenced by the Judge Julie R. Culver.

Mondragon is the owner of a private security company. In November 2014, the first victim, John Doe 1, applied to work as a security guard for Mondragon. Mondragon told John Doe 1 that he would train him to conduct strip searches, special training that not everyone had the aptitude to learn. Mondragon then had John Doe 1 come into his office alone and remove all his clothing. Using the pretext that he was training John Doe 1, Mondragon then proceeded to touch John Doe 1's genitals with his bare hands while making sexual comments. He then paid John Doe 1 \$100 cash and set up a second training session where John Doe 1 and another guard would perform strip searches on each other as Mondragon watched. John Doe 1 reported the incident to the Salinas Police Department.

The second victim, John Doe 2, reported that Mondragon instructed him how to conduct strip searches by having him and another employee strip search each other as Mondragon watched. He told officers that Mondragon promised him a certificate for completing the training. During that training session, John Doe 2 reported that Mondragon touched Doe 2's genitals.

Sworn police officers can conduct strip searches only under very limited circumstances, typically when a suspect is in custody, and those searches require prior written authorization of a supervisor. Even then, officers typically do not touch a suspect themselves; rather, the suspect touches his own body as the officers direct him and visually observe him.

The case was investigated by Salinas Police Department Officers Jacky Bohn and Kristine Fairbanks, Sgt. Kim Robinson, Detective Gabriel Gonzalez, and District Attorney Investigator Jorge Ramirez.