

NEWS RELEASE

COURT TRIAL RESULTS IN MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Jerald Nelson, age 66, was found guilty of murder in the first degree by Judge Lydia Villarreal. The murder occurred in Salinas Valley State Prison in Soledad, California.

On September 28, 2015, the victim, Pedro Aguilar, was sleeping in the top bunk in his cell. While he slept, inmate Nelson tore apart his sheet and made a garrote and strangled the victim to death. The attack rendered the victim unconscious causing him to suffocate and eventually die from asphyxiation.

After the murder, District Attorney Investigator Tony Rodriguez interviewed the defendant. Nelson was read his rights, waived his rights and completed an interview with the investigator. During the interview, Nelson confessed to the crime of murder. Nelson stated that he killed the victim after he had interrogated him and discovered that he was a child molester.

The Investigative Services Unit at Salinas Valley State Prison was responsible for the investigative efforts in the case, as well as, District Attorney Investigator Rodriguez. After the trial was completed, Judge Villarreal sentenced the defendant to twenty-five years to life in prison.