

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **MARINA MAN SENTENCED TO 179 YEARS, 4 MONTHS IN STATE PRISON FOR MOLESTING THREE GIRLS**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean Flippo announced today that Judge Carrie Panetta sentenced Manuel Jesus Jimenez, age 42, of Marina, to a term of 179 years, 4 months to life in state prison for two counts of sexual penetration on a child 10 years of age or younger, two counts of forcible lewd acts on a child under 14, seven counts of lewd acts on a child under 14, and three counts of lewd acts on a child 14 or 15. The defendant will also be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

On May 11, 2015, the then-nine year old victim observed Jimenez molesting her then fifteen year-old cousin. Realizing that they were not alone gave both girls the strength to tell their mothers that Jimenez had been molesting them for many months. During the course of the investigation, another cousin of the girls came forward and told investigators that Jimenez had inappropriately touched her in the past.

The three girls, now ages eleven, sixteen and seventeen, all testified at Jimenez's trial and described his acts of molestation against them to the jury. After the verdict was read, jurors praised the girls for their bravery in coming forward and testifying in this case.

The case was investigated by Marina Police Officers Octavio Borocio, Oliver Minnig, Andres Rosas and Vince Troia. District Attorney Investigator Tracey Spencer conducted follow-up investigation and assisted in preparing the case for trial. The victims were supported by Alma Sanchez of the District Attorney's Office Victim Services Unit and by Odie, a victim comfort dog.