

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

45-YEAR-OLD SALINAS MAN CONVICTED OF FORCIBLY RAPING 15-YEAR-OLD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 8, 2017:

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Vincent Tyrone Fowler, 45, of Salinas was convicted after a 5-day trial before Judge Julie R. Culver for two counts of forcible rape of a minor over 14 years, forcible oral copulation of a minor over 14 years, assault with intent to commit lewd acts on child 15 years, and criminal threats.

On October 26, 2015, 15-year-old Jane Doe became ill at school. After seeing the school nurse, she tried contacting her family members to get a ride home. Her non-related “uncle”, Fowler, came to pick her up at school at her grandmother’s request.

Instead of taking Doe home, Fowler took her back to his home where she fell asleep on a couch in the living room. She woke up several hours later and found her clothing displaced. Fowler’s wife left the home to give a ride to an acquaintance. Fowler proceeded to fondle Doe, force her to orally copulate him and then coerced her to have sex. Fowler told Doe he’d kill her if she told anyone or screamed. He had previously been convicted of first degree murder in 1992 in Monterey County but had been paroled early in October 2014.

Doe remained silent even though Mrs. Fowler returned home a short time later. Doe did not tell her about the rape because she feared he would kill her. Fowler was left alone with Doe again when Mrs. Fowler went to her bedroom. Fowler proceeded to force Doe to orally copulate him and pushed Jane Doe onto the ground and raped her again.

A sexual assault exam was conducted by a Forensic Nurse Examiner, who collected Doe’s clothing. A swab of the interior crotch of Doe’s jeans was tested by California Department of Justice analysts. The swab yielded a partial DNA profile which matched Fowler’s. A subsequent Y-STR DNA exam, which isolates male DNA, revealed a match consistent with Fowler’s Y chromosome.

The case was investigated by Monterey County Sheriff’s Deputy Miguel Ruiz, District Attorney Investigators Christi Gunter and Jorge Gutierrez. District Attorney Investigator Steven Guidi prepared the case for trial. The victim was supported by Alma Sanchez of the DA’s Victim Services and Odie, a victim comfort dog.

Fowler will be sentenced by Judge Julie R. Culver on April 6, 2017. He faces up to 87 years in state prison due to a prior strike for first degree murder.