

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **SEASIDE MAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS FOR CHILD MOLESTATION**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 14, 2017**

**CONTACT: DAVID RABOW**

**(831) 755-5327**

---

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Filemon Suarez Arias, age 61, was sentenced to 10 years in prison after pleading guilty to two counts of child molestation. Judge Andrew Liu pronounced the sentence after hearing the victim describe the devastating impact the abuse had on her. The victim was supported by her family, therapist, and investigator Jackie Meroney who investigated the case as both a Seaside Police Officer and District Attorney Investigator. The victim was also supported by Odie, the Monterey County District Attorney's Office support dog.

Arias was the boyfriend of the victim's grandmother and had access to her from a very young age. He would manipulate her into joining him in his room by offering to teach her guitar and play dolls with her. The sexual molestation lasted for over 7 years until the victim finally reported the abuse to a counselor.

Both charges he was convicted of are considered "strikes" under California's Three Strikes law and are also violent felonies so the defendant will have to serve 85% of his sentence before being released. Arias will have to register for the rest of his life as a sexual offender.