

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **45-YEAR-OLD SALINAS MAN SENTENCED TO 61 YEARS AND 8 MONTHS FOR RAPING 15-YEAR-OLD**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 26, 2017:**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that on April 25, Vincent Tyrone Fowler, age 45, of Salinas was sentenced to 61 years and 8 months in prison by 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. Each of the charges is a strike under California Three Strikes Law. The defendant had previously been convicted of first degree murder in 1992, but had been granted parole by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, 1 year and 4 days before the rape.

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. Fowler, who is not a relative, came to pick her up at school at her grandmother's request.

Instead of taking Doe home, he 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. When Fowler's wife left the home to give a ride to an acquaintance, he proceeded to sexually assault Doe and told her that he would kill her if she told anyone or screamed. Doe remained silent even though Mrs. Fowler returned home a short time later. Fowler was left alone with Doe once again when Mrs. Fowler went to her bedroom and continued to sexually assault her.

Mrs. Fowler came out of her bedroom approximately 10 minutes later and found Doe on the living room floor. Doe eventually was able to run out of the house and flagged down her mother who was on the road coming to pick her up. Mrs. Fowler later told police that Fowler appeared to be "sleeping".

A sexual assault exam and DNA testing of Jane Doe's clothing conducted by analysts at the California Department of Justice revealed evidence that corroborated the sex assault.