* *NEWS RELEASE* *

FORMER CAMP COUNSELOR SENTENCED TO FOUR YEARS PRISON FOR ATTEMPTED CHILD MOLEST

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced that nineteen-year-old Alejandro Ramos Ramos, a former counselor at the Castroville Community Center was sentenced yesterday to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for a term of four years for sending harmful matter to a minor, contacting a minor with the intent to commit a sexual offense and attempted lewd act with a child under the age of fourteen.

Ramos, a Castroville resident, met John Doe, age 7, in 2014 at a summer program where Ramos was a volunteer counselor. During 2014 and 2015, Ramos communicated with John Doe via Snap Chat several times. In 2016, when John Doe was 9 years old, the defendant began to send John Doe photographs of the defendant's genitals and sexually explicit photographs of young men engaged in sexual acts. The defendant's steady progression of attention turned demanding and aggressive as he tried to convince the boy to meet with him. In July of 2016, John Doe with the help of his sister reported the activity to their parents and Monterey County Sheriff's Office was contacted.

Detective Shaheen Jorgenson began to communicate with Ramos in the name of John Doe and arranged a meeting to which the defendant appeared and was arrested. During the investigation, the defendant's electronic devices were found to contain child pornography as well as conversations with other potential victims.

Judge Julie R. Culver, when rendering his sentence, described Ramos' actions as predatory; taking advantage of a position of trust, grooming, isolating and luring the victim into a relationship. The Court also granted a restraining order prohibiting all contact with John Doe for ten years and a destruction order for all of the defendant's electronic devices.

The case was investigated by Det. Shaheen Jorgenson of the Monterey County Sheriff's Office.