

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **SEASIDE MAN SENTENCED TO SEVEN LIFE TERMS FOR CHILD MOLESTATION**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Judge Pamela Butler sentenced Juan Francisco Gonzalez of Seaside to seven terms of 25 years-to-life for two counts of lewd act upon a child under the age of fourteen and five counts of continuous sexual abuse upon a child under the age of 14.

The jury rendered guilty verdicts on September 20, 2017 after hearing testimony from seven victims, who between the ages of 5 and 12, had been molested by Gonzales in 2015. One victim reported that she was touched in 2014 by the defendant, her brother's uncle, while she was being babysat in the defendant's home which served as a before and after school drop-off site for the children of extended family members. In the course of two weeks, six more victims came forward to the Seaside Police Department.

Today, two of the victim's mothers addressed the court and related how the molest has changed their daughters. The mothers asked the court for justice when imposing sentence. One of the victim's therapist, Heather Crimson from Pacific Grove, submitted a letter to the court stating that the trauma from child molestation is life changing, can take an immense toll for years and can be exhibited as anger, depression, insomnia, chronic stress similar to post-traumatic stress disorder, suicidal thoughts as well as physical health problems.

In the September trial, all seven of the victims bravely testified in court before the defendant and the jury.

Judge Butler imposed seven twenty-five year to life terms to be served consecutively for the molest of each one of the seven girls for a total term of one hundred seventy-five years to life.

The victims and their families were assisted throughout the court process by Victim Advocate Alma Sanchez, Court Facility Canine, Odie and DA Investigator Jorge Ramirez.