

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

44 YEAR OLD GONZALES MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD MOLESTATION

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 22, 2017

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that on December 21, 2017, Juan Manuel Leon, age 44, a resident of Gonzales, pled guilty to three counts of child molestation.

The victim, Jane Doe, reported that Leon, her family member, repeatedly sexually molested her over multiple years. Leon pled guilty to sexually molesting Jane Doe when she was 11 and 12 years old. Jane Doe stated that some of the sexual assaults occurred when her mother was not around and Leon was watching over her, while other assaults occurred when her other family members were asleep. Jane Doe felt scared and did not disclose the sexual assaults until she was 13 years old.

Leon will be sentenced by Judge Carrie M. Panetta on February 28, 2018 to a maximum sentence of ten years to be served in state prison. The charges Leon pled to are considered “strikes” under California’s Three Strikes law and are also violent felonies so Leon will have to serve 85% of his sentence before being released. Additionally, Leon will be required to register as a sexual offender.

The case was investigated by District Attorney Investigator Christi Gunter and Gonzales Police Department Officer Abel Gomez.