

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

KING CITY MAN SENTENCED TO TWO LIFE TERMS FOR MOLESTING THREE VICTIMS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Judge Carrie Panetta sentenced Margarito Juarez Zamarron, age 66, of King City to a term of twenty-five years to life and a consecutive fifteen years to life in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

On April 9, 2018, a jury of seven men and five women found the defendant guilty of one count of forcible lewd act upon a child of six years of age, two counts of lewd act upon a child of thirteen years of age and one count of lewd act upon a child of fourteen years of age. Additionally, the jury found true a special allegation that the defendant committed lewd acts upon more than one victim.

The panel deliberated for two hours after hearing testimony from the victims, who are currently nineteen, eighteen, and fifteen years of age. In 2016, one victim reported to the King City Police Department that she was touched in 2006 by the defendant, an extended family member. During the investigation completed by the King City Police Department and a Monterey County District Attorney's Sexual Assault Unit Investigator, two more victims came forward.

During the April trial, the jury also heard evidence of a 2016 Facebook conversation the defendant had stored in his Ipad wherein he was communicating with another fourteen-year old girl over a period of months. All three victims bravely testified in court before the defendant and the jury. One of the girls was accompanied by "Odie" the District Attorney's Office Comfort Dog.

Judge Panetta ordered the forty year to life commitment as well as another term of twenty-five years to life and a single two-year term to run concurrently. A restraining order was granted prohibiting contact with the three victims for a period of ten years. At today's sentencing hearing, the mothers of each of the victims made statements which described the long-term effects of child molestation.

The case was investigated by King City Detective Joshue Partida and DA Investigator Jorge Ramirez.