

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS WOMAN SENTENCED TO 3 YEARS AND 8 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR CHILD ABUSE AND CRIMINAL THREATS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that on June 28, 2018, Judge Carrie M. Panetta sentenced Patricia Guajardo, age 40, a resident of Salinas, to three years and eight months in prison for committing child abuse and criminal threats. The criminal threats charge is considered a “strike” under California’s Three Strikes law. Guajardo admitted that she has a prior prison term.

On November 7, 2016, officers from the Salinas Police Department and Child Protective Services (CPS) personnel responded to the Adams Motel, 2086 North Main St., in Salinas, regarding a report of a 9-month-old child, John Doe 1, who was suffering from burns to his neck and foot. Upon arriving on scene, John Doe 1’s mother, Patricia Guajardo, showed officers a child who Guajardo claimed to be John Doe 1. The child shown to officers did not have any injuries, and so officers were not able to corroborate any child abuse allegations at that time. However, on November 10, 2016, an anonymous source reported that another child had been shown to the officers, in place of John Doe 1. Salinas Police Department officers responded to Guajardo’s apartment at the Adams Motel on November 10, 2016. Upon arriving, they observed John Doe 1 with a burn mark on the back of his neck and a burn mark on his left foot. The officers also noticed that the apartment was in an unsanitary and filthy condition. Digital Forensic Investigator Natalie Dill conducted a forensic search of Patricia Guajardo’s phone which revealed that Guajardo had communicated with her sister in order to show the police her sister’s child instead of her own child, John Doe 1. Additionally, District Attorney Investigator Minnig discovered that John Doe 1’s hair tested positive for the presence of controlled substances, indicating that he had been in the presence of narcotics or in the presence of individuals as they consumed narcotics. Patricia Guajardo admitted to a detective that she uses cocaine daily. Guajardo also admitted that she devised the plan to show officers her sister’s son, instead of her own son John Doe 1, so that the officers would not see John Doe 1’s injuries. Patricia Guajardo also admitted that she threatened her roommate, stating that she would “kill her” if her roommate reported the baby switch to the police.

The case was investigated by District Attorney Investigator Oliver Minnig, District Attorney Digital Forensic Investigator Natalie Dill, Sergeant Christopher Lane, Detective Cameron Murphy, Detective Bryan McKinley, Detective Rodolfo Roman, Officer Richard Lopez, and other officers from the Salinas Police Department.