

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE CAUSING INJURY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 20, 2018

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Gerardo Rivas, age 29, was convicted of and sentenced for driving under the influence causing injury.

On December 31, 2016, Salinas Police Department was dispatched to an injury collision at the intersection of Sherwood Drive and Rossi. The defendant, while driving intoxicated with open containers of beer in his car, lost control of his vehicle and collided with a brick pillar. The collision injured two passengers including a 3-year-old who was not safely fastened in a car seat. The 3-year-old was air lifted for precautionary purposes and luckily survived with minimal injuries. The defendant was found to be under the influence of alcohol with a blood alcohol level of .19.

The defendant initially received a grant of felony probation, but failed to obtain treatment and report to probation and then was convicted of DUI in Ventura County, all violations of the terms and conditions ordered by the court. Today Judge Julie Culver sentenced the defendant to upper term of three years in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Judge Culver stated that his complete disregard for public safety warranted the three-year sentence.

Salinas Police Officers Keesler and Reyes conducted the investigations and arrests in this incident.

This case was presented by members of the District Attorney's Office specialized DUI Vertical Prosecution Unit. Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.