

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **36 YEAR OLD SALINAS MAN FOUND GUILTY OF CHILD MOLESTATION**

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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Salinas resident Jesus Medina, age 36, was found guilty by jury of two counts of child molestation. Both charges are violent felonies and are considered “strikes” under California’s Three Strikes law. The case was heard by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Carrie M. Panetta.

On November 5, 2016, Jane Doe, who was under ten years old at the time, went to a spiritual ceremony with her mother. Medina was a spiritual leader and a close family friend of Jane Doe and her mother. Medina, his wife, and his children also went to the spiritual ceremony with Jane Doe and Doe’s mother. After the ceremony ended, he took his children and Jane Doe back to his house where the children were going to have a sleepover. Doe’s mother had known Medina and his entire family for several years and she trusted Medina to watch over Jane Doe that night. After Medina put Jane Doe to bed, he returned to Doe’s room and molested her two times. When Medina was contacted by law enforcement, he stated that he touched her accidentally over her clothing when he was putting her to bed.

At trial, Jane Doe bravely testified about the molestation and its effects on her. She was supported by District Attorney Victim Advocates Kristin Gebin and Alma Sanchez, and Support Canine Odie, throughout the pendency of the case.

The case was investigated by Detective Byron Gansen and Officer Medrano from the Salinas Police Department, District Attorney Investigator Terri Edwards, and Sergeant Christi Gunter in her former capacity as a District Attorney Investigator.

Judge Carrie M. Panetta will sentence Medina on November 15, 2018. He faces up to ten years in state prison and will be required to register as a sex offender.