

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS MAN SENTENCED TO FORTY YEARS IN PRISON FOR MOLESTING FOUR CHILDREN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CONTACT: Elaine McCleaf
(831) 755-5246**

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Jose Lucas Rivas, age 38, was sentenced by Judge Pamela Butler to 40 years in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

On August 14, 2018, Rivas entered pleas of no contest to two counts of sexual penetration upon a child and two counts of lewd act with a child, after hearing the testimony of Jane Doe 1, age 13, Jane Doe 2, age 10, John Doe 1, age 8 and John Doe 2, age 13 during a jury trial which began on August 6, 2018.

The initial investigation completed by Salinas Police Detective Byron Gansen uncovered sexual acts perpetrated by Rivas upon two sisters, Jane Doe 1 and Jane Doe 2 over a two-year period while Rivas dated the girls' mother.

After Det. Gansen placed a bulletin on Facebook seeking the whereabouts of Rivas, the mother of John Doe 1 and John Doe 2 came forward to report the touching of her children approximately five years earlier when Rivas babysat the boys.

The brother of Jane Doe 1 and Jane Doe 2 and the mother of John Doe 1 and John Doe 2 each provided a statement at today's sentencing hearing describing the impact of Rivas' crimes on the victims and their entire families.

At the sentencing, Judge Butler said she found all four victims to be very credible and courageous. The defendant was ordered to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life and pay restitution to the State Victim's Compensation Board for the cost of counseling services for the victims.