

*** NEWS RELEASE ***
**SALINAS MAN SENTENCED TO
FORTY- EIGHT YEARS
FOR CHILD MOLEST**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced that on October 23, Judge Julie R. Culver sentenced Joel Milan Rodriguez, age 40, to forty-eight years in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, a lifetime of sex offender registration, and prohibited him from contacting the victims for the maximum time period allowed by law.

The victims who are now 19 and 22 years old, reported earlier this year that the defendant, their step-father had substantial sexual contact with them when they were ages seven and ten. Their sister now age 21, also reported that three years ago, the defendant attempted to touch her when she was sleeping.

All three young women were in the courtroom yesterday and stated they did not set out to ruin Rodriguez's life by reporting his conduct but did so because it was the right thing to do and a way of moving on with their lives. The victims also thanked the Court and the District Attorney's Office as well as their maternal uncle who assisted them with reporting to law enforcement and accompanied them to court.

Prior to rendering sentence, Judge Culver commended the young women for their bravery and support of each other and noted because of that family support they will move past these events and have successful lives.

Salinas Police Officer Nicholas Abruzzini and Detective Ciro Barboza investigated the case. The victims were support by the District Attorney Victim Advocate Unit and Odie, the District Attorney's Office Support Canine, throughout the pendency of the case.