

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **WATSONVILLE MAN ENTERED PLEAS TO FORCIBLE SEX ACTS UPON A CHILD**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean Flippo announced today that on November 21, 2018, Sergio Arturo Menera, age 45, entered guilty pleas to two counts of forcible lewd act upon a child under the age of fourteen and one count of forcible rape of a fourteen-year old. The defendant's forcible abuse occurred over a three-year period.

The Monterey County Sheriff's Office conducted an investigation in April of 2017, after the victim, then age sixteen, disclosed the abuse to a friend at school. Detectives served a search warrant at the Watsonville home and found seventeen recently used condoms that were subsequently determined by the Department of Justice Bureau of Forensic Services DNA Laboratory to contain DNA from both the defendant and victim.

Judge Carrie Panetta will sentence the defendant to a stipulated term of 34 years in the state prison at the sentencing hearing set for December 21, 2018. The defendant is required to register as a sex offender.

The case was investigated by Monterey County Sheriff Detective Javier Galvan and Deputy David Burnside.