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PRESS RELEASE

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**SEASIDE MAN CONVICTED OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, FALSE IMPRISONMENT,
WITNESS INTIMIDATION, VIOLATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESTRAINING
ORDERS, AND BEING A FELON IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM**

People v James Sloop; 18CR001912

SALINAS, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that on January 28, Seaside resident James Sloop, age 41, was convicted by jury of domestic violence, false imprisonment, two counts of witness intimidation, five counts of violating domestic violence restraining orders, and one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Judge Mark E. Hood presided.

On February 23, 2018, at approximately 2:00 a.m., Sloop pointed a loaded firearm at Jane Doe's cousin in the midst of an argument. Doe, Sloop's girlfriend, intervened and was ordered by Sloop to get into his car. Sloop drove her to an isolated area near Jack's Peak Park and he immediately began accusing her of infidelity and punching her in the head.

The next morning, Doe escaped in Sloop's car after he fell asleep. Sloop was arrested the same day. A court issued a domestic violence restraining order prohibiting any contact with Doe. While in custody, he contacted Doe repeatedly, and had third parties contact her, to convince her not to testify against him. He also contacted his wife, Jane Doe 2, in violation of another domestic violence restraining order. There were over four hundred restraining order violations.

Judge Hood will set Sloop's sentencing date on February 14, 2019. Sloop faces life in prison based on these crimes and his two prior strike convictions.

Detective Aly Najem with the Monterey County Sheriff's Office and DA Investigator Oliver Minnig. Tara McCabe, a domestic violence expert, provided critical testimony which aided the jury's understanding as to why victims of domestic violence recant, minimize, and frequently stay in abusive relationships.

There is no excuse for domestic violence. If you or a loved one are experiencing domestic violence and need assistance, call the YWCA at 831-372-6300 or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).