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PRESS RELEASE

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23-YEAR-OLD MADERA MAN PLED GUILTY TO CHILD MOLESTATION

People v. Jacob Mendez; 18CR012273

SALINAS, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that on May 21 Jacob Mendez, age 23, a resident of Madera, pled guilty to committing assault with the intent to commit sexual penetration, and annoying or molesting a minor under the age of 18 years. The assault charge is a violent felony and is considered a “strike” under California’s Three Strikes law.

John Doe, who was a minor at the time, reported that Mendez, who is a family member, was visiting from out-of-town and was staying with Doe and his family. The victim stated that one evening, Mendez laid down next to him on a mattress and began to touch his body over his clothing. Doe told Mendez to stop touching him. Mendez admitted to Doe that he knew his conduct was wrong because Doe was a minor. Mendez stopped touching Doe and left the bedroom. Doe then fell asleep and awoke shortly thereafter to Mendez sexually assaulting him underneath Doe’s clothing.

Judge Carrie M. Panetta will set a sentencing date on June 18, 2019. Mendez faces up to four years in prison. In addition, he will be required to register as a sex offender for life.

The case was investigated by Officer M. Yasin and other officers from the Soledad Police Department. John Doe was assisted by District Attorney Victim Witness Assistance Program Coordinator Alma Sanchez.