



JEANNINE M. PACIONI
District Attorney

PRESS RELEASE

August 9, 2019

Contact: Christopher Puck, Deputy District Attorney
Telephone: 831-796-6096

JURY FINDS SALINAS MAN GUILTY OF CONTINUOUS SEXUAL ABUSE OF A CHILD AND VICTIM DISSUASION

People v. Jose Francisco Barajas; 18CR003931

SALINAS, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that on August 8, 2019, a jury convicted Jose Francisco Barajas, age 43, of continuous sexual abuse of a minor under the age of 14, dissuading a victim and lewd and lascivious conduct with a child aged 14 or 15.

In February 2018, the Salinas Police Department was dispatched to a claim of child molestation that had been going on for years. Police contacted Jane Doe (age 15 at the time) who reported that she had been inappropriately touched by her uncle through marriage, for years. She stated that the abuse started when she was age 12. Jane Doe alleged conduct ranging from kissing and groping to digital penetration. Barajas also paid Jane Doe for lewd photographs. At age 13, when Jane Doe told Barajas to stop touching her or she would tell, he discouraged her from doing so by telling her that the family would break up, no one would believe her, and that he had money and would not go to jail, among other things. After that confrontation, Barajas went on to pay Jane Doe two to three thousand dollars over the course of two years to maintain her silence. The investigation by law enforcement took a year and a half. It uncovered numerous witnesses and pieces of independent evidence that not only corroborated Jane Doe's allegations, but also showed efforts by Barajas to destroy digital evidence of his crimes and encourage Jane Doe to lie to the police about what happened.

Judge Andrew G. Liu will preside over the sentencing on October 9, 2019. Based on a finding of substantial sexual conduct, Barajas will face a mandatory prison sentence with a maximum possible sentence of 18 years, 8 months. In addition, he will be required to register as a sex offender for life.

The case was primarily investigated by Detective Pedro Gomez of the Salinas Police Department.

Booking photo included below:

