

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS MAN PLEADS NO CONTEST TO FORCIBLE CHILD MOLESTATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Roberto Flores Bernal, age 53, of Salinas, pled no contest to three counts of forcible lewd acts on a child under age 14.

During the months of July and August of this year, the defendant repeatedly forced an 8 year old female relative to engage in sex acts with him. The defendant threatened the girl to keep her from telling anyone about the abuse. The abuse of this young child was discovered when a relative of the defendant and the little girl observed inappropriate contact between the two and urged the child's mother to speak to the girl. The victim then disclosed to her mother what the defendant had done to her.

Bernal will receive a sentence of 24 years in state prison and will also be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life. Additionally, the charges constitute three "strikes" under California's Three Strikes law. Sentencing is scheduled for December 16, 2015, before Judge Mark Hood.

The case was investigated by Officers Masahiro Yoneda and Gerardo Magana of the Salinas Police Department.