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For Immediate Release
September 17, 2020

PRESS RELEASE

NAPA MAN SENTENCED TO 43 YEARS IN STATE PRISON FOR CONTINUOUS FORCIBLE CHILD MOLEST

Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley announced today:

On September 15, 2020, pursuant to a plea agreement, Jesus Alfredo Cruz, aged 44, was sentenced to 43 years in State Prison by the Honorable Scott R.L. Young of the Napa Superior Court. In addition, Mr. Cruz will have to register as a sex offender.

On August 18, 2020, Mr. Cruz pled no contest to one count of Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Child Under 14 Years of Age, one count of Forcible Sodomy of a Child Under 14 Years of Age, and two counts of Forcible Lewd and Lascivious Conduct with a Child Under 14 Years of Age.

The convictions were the result of sexual abuse the defendant had with one minor family member between 2008 and 2015 in Napa County. The survivor was between 5 and 11 years old at the time of the molestations. The investigation into this case began after the survivor courageously came forward and reported the abuse to a staff member at her school, which resulted in substantial criminal charges being filed in September of 2019. Napa Police Department Detective Garrett Smith led the investigation. Sexual Assault Victim Services provided advocacy for the survivor.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Kristen Orlando who commented, "Without the bravery and courage of the survivor to come forward we may have never known about this abuse. The survivor felt safe enough to disclose to someone at school, which is exactly what we want to see. The plea is the right result and I am hopeful that the survivor will gain closure and continue to move forward with her life."

Children who are sexually abused disclose to people they trust, who support them, and seem likely to be able to help them out of the situation. If a child discloses to you, please do not ask the child a lot of questions about their experience and avoid casting judgment on the nature of the acts or the identity of the offender. Thank the child for their trust and assure them that you will act responsibly with their disclosure. Be encouraging and contact a law enforcement professional. You may save a life. Our Napa County Law Enforcement partners, Napa County Welfare Services, as well as the Sexual Assault Victim Services, remain open and committed to investigating crimes of sexual abuse and serving victims and their families. If you know of, or suspect, a child in danger, please report to any Law Enforcement Agency at 911 or contact the Napa County District Attorney's Office, Victim Services Division at (707) 299-1414.

Any questions regarding this case may be directed to Assistant District Attorney Paul Gero.