



## NAPA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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**ALLISON HALEY**  
District Attorney

For Immediate Release  
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### **PRESS RELEASE** **SERIAL CHILD MOLESTER CONVICTED**

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Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley announced today:

On July 8, 2021, Gabriel Elena Lopez, aged 36, was convicted of nine criminal charges and eight special allegations. Defendant was found guilty of forcible rape, sexual penetration by a foreign object, forcible oral copulation of a minor, two counts of forcible lewd act upon a child, three counts of lewd act upon a child, and one count of contact with minor for sexual offense. The jury also found true special allegations that the defendant committed a sexual offense against multiple victims. The Honorable Judge Scott R.L. Young presided over the eight-day jury trial in Napa Superior Court.

The convictions are the result of sexual contact the defendant had with two daughters of a woman he was married to between 2011 and 2014 in Napa County. The survivors were between 7 and 16-years-old at the time of the molestations. The investigation by the Napa Police Department was prompted by a disclosure of sexual abuse to a family member who reported it at a Napa Emergency Women's Shelter. During the jury trial, both survivors, now aged 17 and 23-years-old testified against their abuser. The case was prosecuted by Napa County Deputy District Attorney Kecia Lind.

Assistant District Attorney Paul Gero stated:

"There was a huge burden borne by the victims in this case. Due to the pandemic and other factors beyond their control, it took a significant amount of time to get to trial. When cases are delayed, especially crimes involving child sexual assault, it is the lives of the victims that are continually disrupted. I hope that the victims in this case, who showed incredible patience and bravery, can begin to put these tragic events behind them."

Napa Police Department Detective Todd Shulman led the investigation. Napa County District Attorney Investigator Melissa Kelly assisted in the prosecution. Sexual Assault Victim Services provided advocacy for the survivors.

Defendant is being held without bail. He faces a life sentence in state prison. Defendant will be back in court for a sentencing hearing on August 20, 2021 at 8:30 in Department 4.

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