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ALLISON HALEY
District Attorney

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PRESS RELEASE **CHILD RAPIST AND MOLESTER CONVICTED**

Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley announced today:

On October 29, 2021, Samuel Cereda, aged 39, was convicted of 50 criminal charges and 3 special allegations. Defendant was found guilty of 7 counts of Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child: Rape, 12 counts of Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child: Oral Copulation, 2 counts of Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child: Sexual Penetration, 27 counts of Forcible Lewd Act Upon a Child Under 14, and 2 counts of Lewd Act Upon a Child Under 14. The jury also found true special allegations that the defendant committed sexual offenses against multiple victims, that the defendant engaged in substantial sexual conduct with the victims, and that the defendant committed offenses by force, fear, violence or duress. The Honorable Judge Scott R.L. Young presided over the nine-day jury trial in Napa Superior Court.

The convictions are the result of sexual contact the defendant had with one family member between 2017 and 2019 in Napa County, and another between 2009 and 2011 in San Bernardino County. The survivors were between 8 and 13-years-old at the time of the sexual abuse. The investigation by the Napa Police Department was triggered when one of the survivors disclosed the abuse to a friend who then encouraged her to report to a trusted school official. While conducting their investigation, Napa Police Department Detectives learned of the molestation of the second survivor, which had occurred many years prior and in a different county. The Napa County District Attorney's Office took jurisdiction over all of the offenses and prosecuted them together as part of one case. During the jury trial, both survivors, now between the ages of 16 and 20 testified. The case was prosecuted by Napa County Deputy District Attorney Agnes Dziadur who said:

"To escape accountability for his crimes, a perpetrator in a case of this nature does everything in his power to promote forgetting. If secrecy fails, he attacks the credibility of his victims. If he cannot silence them completely, he tries to make sure no one will listen and pay attention. In this case, the defendant did not succeed. Against all odds, including complications and delays due to a global pandemic, the survivors were able to speak their truths and the jury listened and held the defendant accountable for all of his crimes. I am so grateful that we could achieve justice for them in this case."

Napa Police Department Detective Dustin Dodd led the investigation. Napa County District Attorney Investigator Sharon Fong 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 December 1, 2021 at 8:30 in Department 1.

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