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PRESS RELEASE **CHILD RAPIST SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON**

Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley announced today:

On December 15, 2021, Samuel Cereda, aged 39, was sentenced to 690 years to life in State Prison by the Honorable Scott R.L. Young of Napa County Superior Court. Additionally, Judge Young awarded \$825,000 in damages to the victims.

On October 29, 2021, a Napa jury found the defendant guilty of 50 counts involving the sexual assault of children after a nine-day jury trial.

The convictions were 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 prompted by one of the survivors disclosing the abuse to a friend who then encouraged her to report to a trusted school official. Some of the family members of the survivors were present at the sentencing hearing, and the mother of both survivors addressed the court by reading an impact statement aloud. The case was prosecuted by Napa County Deputy District Attorney Agnes Dziadur who said:

“It was the strength of these young survivors that brought this predator to justice. After years of silence and suffering, we’re hopeful that this sentence finally gives them the peace they deserve. These unspeakable and horrific acts should absolutely keep this man incarcerated for the rest of his life. He will never have the opportunity to harm another child again. At a time in this State when the needs of survivors seem to be secondary to those of their abusers, the Napa County DA’s Office continues to recognize the need for accountability and justice for all.”

Napa County 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.

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