



## NAPA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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**ALLISON HALEY**  
District Attorney

For Immediate Release  
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### **PRESS RELEASE** **NAPA CHILD MOLESTER SENTENCED TO 44 YEARS IN STATE PRISON**

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Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley announced today:

On January 27, 2022, pursuant to a plea agreement, Jose Hernandez, age 29, was sentenced to 44 years in State Prison by the Honorable Mark Boessenecker of Napa Superior Court. In addition, Judge Boessenecker awarded a total of \$125,000 in damages to the victim and her mother.

On December 15, 2021, Mr. Hernandez pled guilty to two counts of Forcible Lewd and Lascivious Conduct with 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 Oral Copulation of a Child Under 14 years of Age. Mr. Hernandez also admitted a special allegation of Substantial Sexual Conduct and multiple special allegations including that the victim was vulnerable, that his crimes involved planning, sophistication, and professionalism, that the crimes involved a high degree of cruelty, viciousness, or callousness, that his conduct was violent, and that he took advantage of a position of trust.

The convictions were a result of sexual contact the defendant had with one minor family member between 2018 and 2020 in Napa County. The survivor was between 6 and 8 years old at the time of the molestations. The investigation into this case began after the survivor and her family courageously came forward and reported the abuse to law enforcement, which resulted in substantial criminal charges being filed in August, 2020. The survivor's mother was present at the sentencing hearing where she gave an impact statement addressing the defendant and the Court.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Kristen Orlando who commented that, "Without the bravery and strength of this young survivor to come forward we may have never known about this abuse. She showed extraordinary courage in speaking up against someone she trusted and who should have been protecting her instead of hurting her. The plea is the right result, and I am hopeful that the survivor will gain closure and continue to move forward with her life."

Napa Police Department Detective Jason Barrera led the investigation. Sexual Assault Victim Services provided advocacy for the survivor.

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 of Victim Services at (707) 299-1414.

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