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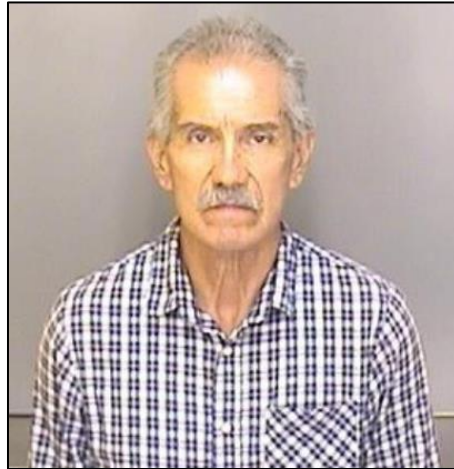
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PRESS RELEASE

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

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Merced County Jury Finds Child's Relative Guilty of Four Counts of Molest

Friday, June 25, 2021, a Merced County Jury convicted Rodolfo Calderon on all counts alleged. Mr. Calderon faces a maximum sentence of twelve years plus fifteen years to life in prison at his sentencing scheduled for August 6, 2021, following guilty verdicts on four felony counts.

Last week's trial stemmed from an August 2020 report to the Merced County Sheriff's Office wherein the confidential victim disclosed they were repeatedly touched by a relative over a span of years, between the ages of seven and eleven, whenever they visited family at a farm in Gustine. Mr. Calderon most often disguised his behavior by requiring the confidential victim to sit in his lap while driving a vehicle on the farm property. The sexual abuse was not reported until the confidential victim was a teenager.

In addition to testimony from the confidential victim, the jury heard admissions made by Mr. Calderon to an adult member of the family during a pretext telephone call arranged by the Merced County Sheriff's Investigations Bureau. Also, following his arrest, Mr. Calderon admitted to detectives he touched the confidential victim in a sexual manner. He explained to them he was

touched by the devil and tempted as a man when he touched the confidential victim inappropriately.

Mr. Calderon was convicted in Merced Superior Court case 20CR-04797 of three counts of Lewd Act Upon a Child Under the Age of 14, felony violations of Penal Code section 288(a), and one count of Oral Copulation of a Child 10 Years Old or Younger, a felony violation of Penal Code section 288.7(b). Deputy District Attorney Sara Rosenthal prosecuted the case.