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**PRESS RELEASE**

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

**Merced County Jury Convicts Gerardo Jauregui Ruiz of Sexual Abuse Against a  
Child**

Date: October 28, 2022  
Contact: Tracy Roland  
Number: (209) 385-7381



On Friday, October 28, 2022, a Merced County Jury returned guilty and true verdicts on all charged offenses against Gerardo Jauregui Ruiz of Los Banos, California. Mr. Jauregui Ruiz was found by the jury to have sexually abused a family member.

On February 7, 2017, Los Banos Police Department was notified of a sexual assault against a child under the age of ten. During the course of the investigation, the Confidential

Victim disclosed sexual abuse by Mr. Jauregui Ruiz. The Confidential Victim disclosed a pattern of sexual abuse, which had occurred within the previous weeks. A subsequent forensic interview was conducted of the Confidential Victim in which they disclosed additional acts of sexual abuse by Mr. Jauregui Ruiz. The victim was under the age of 10 when they were sexually abused.

During the trial, the jurors heard from the Confidential Victim who testified about the sexual abuse they had endured from Mr. Jauregui Ruiz. The jury heard testimony from an immediate family member of the Confidential Victim who testified that Mr. Jauregui Ruiz tried to dissuade them from reporting the crime. The jury also heard testimony from Detective Acosta of the Los Banos Police Department who was the lead detective on the case.

The jury convicted Mr. Jauregui Ruiz of two counts of sodomy with a child under the age of 10, a violation of Penal Code 288.7 (a), two counts of oral copulation with a child under the age of 10, a violation of Penal Code 288.7 (b), and one count of dissuading a witness from reporting a crime, a violation of Penal Code 136.1(b)(1).

Mr. Jauregui Ruiz will be sentenced by Merced County Superior Court Judge Steven Slocum on November 29, 2022. He faces a possible 82 years to life in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Deputy District Attorney Tracy Roland prosecuted the case on behalf of the Merced County District Attorney's Office.