



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
**COUNTY OF KERN**

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING  
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE  
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301  
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

ANDREA S. KOHLER  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

January 21, 2022

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**CONTACT:**

DDA Stephanie Zigler  
(661) 868-2340

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Approved by JAK  
Press Release #22-6

**Re: Trial Verdict: Child Sexual Assault: Michael Hopkins: Kern County Superior Court Case #MF013604A**

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction in a sexual assault case today. On January 21, 2022, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Stephanie Zigler, a Kern County jury found defendant Michael Hopkins guilty of multiple sexual assault charges relating to assaults on a ten-year-old girl whom he was entrusted to babysit. The jury returned guilty verdicts on every one of the thirteen felony sexual assault charges brought against Hopkins.

The offenses occurred over several months in 2018 at Hopkins' residence near Boron, in Kern County. The minor victim disclosed the incidents to her family who notified law enforcement. Investigation revealed that over the course of several months, Hopkins had committed multiple, repeated sexual acts with the young girl. During these acts, Hopkins on several occasions bound the victim in handcuffs. In one incident, Hopkins used a whip to strike the victim resulting in a scar on her arm. Hopkins was convicted of 13 felony charges resulting from these acts.

Hopkins admitted committing many of the offenses to investigators, but at the trial attempted to claim that his admissions were lies. Hopkins further presented a character witness – his stepfather – who initially told the jury that Hopkins was an honest and good father. When the prosecutor shared with Hopkins' stepfather some of the details of the evidence, including Hopkins' admissions, even Hopkins' own stepfather and character witness reconsidered his view of Hopkins and ultimately agreed that Hopkins needed to be 'turned in' to authorities.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction, stating: "The acts that child predators commit against children are so unspeakable that we almost never share any more details about them than necessary to understand why we fight so hard to ensure that predators receive maximum sentences. Those that prey on children rightfully face some of the longest sentences recognized in the law."

Hopkins' sentencing is set for March 8, 2022, before the Honorable Judge Brownlee where he faces a sentence of up to 200 years to life in prison.

**Michael Hopkins:**

