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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Re: Trial Conviction for Child Sexual Assault and Molestation: Miguel Castillo, Jr: Kern County Superior Court Case # BF171537A

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a conviction in a significant child molestation case today. In a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Kara Thompson, a Kern County jury found defendant, Miguel Castillo Jr., guilty of three counts of child sexual molestation against two victims including lewd or lascivious acts with a child fourteen or fifteen years old, sexual penetration by force, fear, or threats, and annoying or molesting a child.

Between 2015 and 2017, Castillo sexually molested two girls. The abuse of first victim began in 2016 when the when she was 14 years old and Castillo engaged in acts of touching and sexual penetration. The abuse of the second victim began in 2015 when the second victim was between 16 and 17 years old and Castillo engaged in acts of inappropriate touching with her. The molestation was ultimately discovered in January of 2018 when one of the victims reported the abuse. Castillo has a prior conviction for lewd and lascivious acts with a child under the age of 14 years from 2001.

The jury also found Castillo not guilty of additional charges alleging lewd or lascivious acts by force or fear of a child 10 years and under and false imprisonment.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction, stating: "Predators that repeatedly target children for sexual abuse have proven themselves to be beyond effective reform. Ensuring that such offenders serve lengthy prison sentences guards against future abuse and protects public safety."

The case was investigated by the Bakersfield Police Department and support for the victims was provided by the District Attorney's Office Bureau of Victim Services. Sentencing is set for April 4, 2022 before Superior Court Judge John Ogelsby in Department 3, where Castillo faces a potential of 25 years to life and mandatory life-time sex offender registration.

