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Parole Granted for Convicted Child Molester Jesus Ibarra Despite District Attorney's Opposition
CDC #T00374; Court Case #SC080841A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) granted release to convicted child molester Jesus Ibarra. On January 11, 2024, BPH found that Ibarra was suitable for parole and no longer poses a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

In 1996, Ibarra met the mother and aunt of the three victims when he rented a room in her house in southeast Bakersfield. By 1998, Ibarra and the adult female started a romantic relationship. They lived together with her two daughters, two sons and her niece. Ultimately, Ibarra had a biological child with the adult female.

Ibarra committed his sexual offenses against the three female children – ages 7, 10, and 13 at the time of the sexual assaults. Ibarra's trial commenced in Kern County on September 25, 2000. Approximately 40 days later, on October 4, 2000, a Kern County Jury found Ibarra guilty of 38 counts of continuous sexual abuse of a child under the age of 14 and 23 counts of lewd and lascivious acts upon a child under the age of 14. After the appellate process, a Kern County Judge sentenced Ibarra to 62 years in state prison.

Despite only serving approximately 25 years of his 62-year sentence, Ibarra, age 56, is considered for early release pursuant to Elder Offender Laws. In California, incarcerated persons are eligible for the Elderly Parole Program after reaching age 50 and being continuously incarcerated for 20 years.

On January 11, 2024, the Board of Parole focused on Ibarra's current ability to control any sexual attraction to female pre-pubescent children. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the Board of Parole to deny parole. The Board of Parole found that Ibarra was suitable for parole and no longer posed a current unreasonable risk of danger to society.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "I'm outraged with the board's decision to grant parole to

a child molester who has served less than half his term behind bars. These individuals are amongst the most dangerous - preying upon the innocent and vulnerable members of our society and leaving scars that can last a lifetime.”