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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by CJZ
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District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant child molestation conviction today. In a case presented by Deputy District Attorney Brad Taconi, a Kern County jury found defendant Jesus Rocha guilty of 5 counts of child sexual molestation, including aggravated forcible rape, aggravated sexual penetration, lewd and lascivious acts with a child under 14 years with force, rape by force or fear, and sexual penetration by force or fear.

On March 26, 2021, the defendant approached the victim while she sat in her living room. The defendant used a ruse of showing the victim a video game on her phone when he began touching her inappropriately. He grabbed her by the arm and forced her down on a mattress in the living room where he proceeded to take off both their clothes. He pinned her down, holding her wrists and covering her mouth before he sexually assaulted her and raped her. He stopped the assault when the victim's older sister walked into the room.

The sexual assault was reported to the Kern County Sheriff's Office that evening and the defendant was subsequently taken into custody. The defendant had previously been convicted for Rape in the Third Degree out of Oregon in May 2011.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer stated: "When sexual predators target and victimize a young child, public safety and every sense of justice demand severe penalties. This is especially with repeat offenders who have proven themselves to be beyond effective reform. Ensuring that such offenders serve lengthy prison sentences guards against future abuse and protects public safety."

Sentencing is set for May 9, 2022, before Superior Court Judge Gregory Pulskamp. Defendant Jesus Rocha faces a potential sentence of 30 years to life and mandatory sex offender registration.