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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Approved by CJZ  
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**Re: Sexual Assault Trial Verdict: *People v. Tomas Tirado Mendoza*: Kern County Superior Court Case #DF014553A**

Bakersfield – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant jury trial conviction in a sexual assault case today. On Tuesday, September 13, 2022, a Kern County jury found Tomas Tirado Mendoza guilty of all three felony charges brought against him, including Digital Penetration of a Minor 10 Years of Age or Younger, Lewd and Lascivious Acts with a Minor Under 14, and Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Child. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Brad Taconi.

On June 29, 2019, the child victim was at her residence in Delano when Mendoza, her stepfather, entered her room during the early morning. The victim awoke to the defendant touching her inappropriately, and her resistance caused Mendoza to leave the room. After several years of similar types of sexual molestation and abuse, Mendoza's conduct was reported to authorities.

An investigation by law enforcement revealed that Mendoza had been sexually abusing and assaulting the victim for several years. That abuse entailed multiple instances of inappropriate sexual contact with the victim. Senior Deputies from the Kern County Sheriff's Office Delano Substation were able to gather evidence corroborating the victim's accounts of abuse and present that evidence before the jury. During the trial, Mendoza testified and attempted to deny responsibility for his actions. The jury's verdict makes clear that Mendoza's denials were not credible in light of evidence that established guilt beyond a reasonable doubt for the years-long sexual abuse of the child victim.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented: "If not for the courage of this young victim to come forward, this defendant would be able to continue preying on children. I am grateful for the efforts of law enforcement and the jury in holding this sexual offender accountable."

Tirado Mendoza faces a sentence of 15 years to life plus an additional 16 years in prison. Sentencing is scheduled for October 12, 2022, in Department 4 before the Honorable Charles R. Brehmer.

Tomas Tirado Mendoza:

