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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by CJZ
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Re: Jury Trial Conviction: Gilbert Arizmendez Barriga BF169612A

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant child molestation conviction today.

In a case presented by Deputy District Attorney Esther Schlaerth, a Kern County jury found defendant Gilbert Arizmendez Barriga guilty of 10 counts of child sexual molestation against three victims, including lewd and lascivious acts with a child under the age of 14 years, continuous child sexual abuse, oral copulation with a child 10 years old or younger, sexual penetration of a child 10 years old or younger, and sexual intercourse with a child 10 years old or younger.

Between 2006 and 2010, the defendant sexually molested one of his step-granddaughters. The defendant engaged in acts of touching, oral copulation, sexual penetration, and sexual intercourse with the victim, who was between the ages of 5 to 11 years old. Between 2010 and 2011, the defendant also sexually molested a second step-granddaughter. The defendant engaged in acts of touching and oral copulation with the second victim, who was between the ages of 7 and 9 years old. The defendant also sexually molested his step-daughter between the years of 1993 and 1996 when the victim was between 8 and 12 years old.

The molestation was discovered in August of 2017, when the victims came forward to report the abuse.

Sentencing is set for March 18, 2021 before Superior Court Judge John Oglesby. Defendant Gilbert Barriga faces a potential life sentence and mandatory sex offender registration.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer stated: "The sexual abuse of children is most often perpetrated by a family member. The victims in this case were heroes who had the courage to tell their story of abuse. I am very proud of the work of law enforcement and prosecutors who are assigned to sexual assault units and strive to achieve justice for the most vulnerable victims in our community."