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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jury Finds Man Guilty of Sexually Abusing Child 20 Years Ago
People v. Javier Chavez: Kern County Superior Court Case BF192442A

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant jury conviction. On August 7, 2024, a Kern County jury found defendant Javier Chavez guilty of three counts of Forcible Sodomy, one count of Forcible Oral Copulation, two counts of Lewd and Lascivious Acts with a Child under 14 years of age, and one count of Issuing Criminal Threats. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Michael A. Morea.

From 1999 to 2004, Chavez took advantage of a teenage family member. Chavez started by touching the victim at the age of 13 in sensitive places for his own sexual gratification. As the victim aged from 14 through 17, Chavez became more aggressive with the victim, escalating his activities into sodomy and oral copulation. Through this entire time, Chavez utilized physical violence and oral threats to the victim's life, creating an abusive atmosphere from which the victim felt they could not escape.

In fall of 2022, the victim – now an adult – came forward regarding the sexual abuse suffered at the hands of Chavez. Bakersfield Police Department detectives investigated the history of sexual abuse through extensive interviews and pre-text phone calls, finding additional corroboration for the victim's accusations.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented, "I am immensely proud of this survivor for their courage in speaking out. Although Chavez may have believed he got away with his horrific actions, justice prevails in the end."

Sentencing is set for September 5, 2024, before the Honorable Judge John Brownlee in Department 6 of the Kern County Superior Court. Chavez faces up to 20 years in prison and lifetime registration as a sex offender.