OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF KERN

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT: **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
Brad Taconi   Approved by CJZ
(661) 868-2717   Press Release # 22-4

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 Shawn Durrell Weems, Jr. guilty of 6 counts of child sexual molestation against two victims, including sodomy of a child 10 years old or younger, sexual penetration of a child 10 years old or younger, lewd and lascivious acts with a child under the age of 14 years, oral copulation of a child 10 years of younger, and annoying or molesting a child.

After arriving in Bakersfield in 2018, the defendant sexually molested an eleven-year-old female relative. Beginning in 2020, he began molesting another female relative who was only five years old at the time. On the night of May 14, 2020, after everyone in the residence was asleep, the defendant snuck into the room of the victim who had recently turned six years of age and sodomized and sexually penetrated her. The following morning, the victim reported the molestation to her family members who filed a report with the Bakersfield Police Department.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer stated: When a sexual predator seeks out those very young victims who are well known and related, it is not only the impact of the horrific act that is borne by the victim, but it is also the profound loss of trust in all that should be familiar and safe.

Sentencing is set for February 15, 2022, before Superior Court Judge Charles Brehmer. Defendant Shawn Weems Jr. faces a maximum sentence of 63 years to life and mandatory sex offender registration.