



OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

COUNTY OF SHASTA

Robert J. Maloney  
*Assistant District Attorney*

**Gerald C. Benito**  
*District Attorney*

**PRESS RELEASE**

**CHILD MOLESTER CONVICTED OF 14 COUNTS**  
**September 8, 2009**

On Friday, September 4, a Shasta County jury found Rodrigo Fabian Gonzalez, 21, formerly of Redding, guilty of fourteen counts of lewd or lascivious acts upon a child under age 14. The jury also found true allegations of substantial sexual conduct as to each of the fourteen counts. The jury was unable to reach verdicts on eight additional counts, with 11 of 12 jurors voting for conviction. The verdict came after a six day trial. Gonzalez' sentencing is set for October 22. He faces a maximum sentence of 34 years in state prison.

Gonzalez' crimes in Shasta County involve abuse of a single victim in 2007 and 2008. However, he is also charged with similar conduct involving another child in Grants Pass, Oregon in 2008. That case is still pending.

The defendant's crimes constitute "strikes" under California's Three Strikes Law. The substantial sexual conduct allegations make Gonzalez ineligible for probation. Because these crimes are considered violent felonies, Gonzalez will have to serve 85 percent of any prison sentence before he is eligible for release. He will also be required to register as a sex offender for life.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Benjamin Hanna prosecuted the case. The investigation was conducted by Investigator Doug Carney of the Redding Police Department. The victim was assisted through the court process by Shasta County Victim Assistance Advocate Deborah McKinnon.

For further information, contact District Attorney Jerry Benito at 245-6310.