



OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

COUNTY OF SHASTA

**Stephen S. Carlton**  
*District Attorney*

**SHASTA COUNTY JURY CONVICTS MAN OF CONTINUOUS SEXUAL  
ABUSE OF A CHILD**

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September 19, 2014  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Deputy District Attorney: Sarah Van Slyke  
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On September 18, 2014, a Shasta County jury found Michael Owen Gardner, 52, of Palo Cedro, guilty of three counts of counts of lewd or lascivious acts of a child under the age of 14 years old, one count of oral copulation of a child under the age of 10 years old, and one count of continuous sexual abuse of a child. The jury also found true the special allegation that the defendant had substantial sexual contact with the child.

Evidence presented at trial showed that the molestation began when the young boy was nine years old and continued until the victim was almost twelve years old. Over that two year period of time, Gardner sexually violated the child in multiple ways. Gardner faces a potential sentence of life with the possibility of parole after serving a minimum of 15 years.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Sarah Van Slyke and investigated by Deputy Will Gardner of the Shasta County Sheriff's Office.