



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SHASTA

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**Shasta County Jury Convicts Man of Forcible Rape and Forcible Lewd Acts
Upon a Child**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Today, a Shasta County jury found James Scott Rowton, Sr., 66 years old, guilty of two counts of forcible rape, in violation of Penal Code section 261(a)(2), two counts of forcible lewd act upon a child, in violation of Penal Code section 288(b), two counts of lewd act upon a child, in violation of Penal Code section 288(c)(1), and two counts of forcible oral copulation, in violation of Penal Code section 288a(c)(2).

Evidence presented at trial showed the defendant molested a relative beginning when the victim was approximately 10 years old until she was approximately 20 years old. The victim did not immediately report the molestation because the defendant told her this was their secret, she feared she would be removed from her family and that the defendant would harm her. The defendant threatened the victim that he would hurt her if she ever told anyone.

Evidence at trial showed the defendant was convicted in 1984 in Shasta County for three counts of lewd or lascivious acts upon a child under 14, in violation of Penal Code section 288(a), two counts oral copulation ten year age difference and victim under 14, in violation of Penal Code section 288a(c), and one count unlawful sexual intercourse, in violation of Penal Code section 261.5 against two other female relatives.

The Honorable Judge William Gallagher will hold a separate trial on December 29th to determine if the defendant has in fact suffered those prior convictions. The outcome will determine the defendant's length of sentence. He is facing a minimum of 50 years to life based upon the prior convictions.

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