



OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

COUNTY OF SHASTA

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

**SHASTA COUNTY MAN SENTENCED TO 37 YEARS TO LIFE IN STATE  
PRISON FOR CONTINUOUS SEXUAL ABUSE OF A CHILD**

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February 6, 2015  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Deputy District Attorney: Sarah Van Slyke  
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Today Michael Owen Gardner, 52, of Palo Cedro was sentenced to 37 years to life in state prison after a jury found Gardner 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 defendant was ineligible for probation because the jury found the defendant had committed substantial sexual conduct 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.

The defendant will be required to register as sex offender pursuant to Penal Code section 290 if he is ever released from prison.

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