



GREGORY D. TOTTEN
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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Santa Paula Man Convicted of Child Molestation of Multiple Victims

VENTURA, California –District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Juan Benito Rueda (DOB 8/28/1968), of Santa Paula, was convicted of nine counts of lewd acts upon a child under the age of 14 and committing lewd acts upon multiple victims.

In October 2015, the first of three victims came forward to Simi Valley Police detectives stating Rueda had committed numerous lewd acts upon her in his van and bedroom between 2006 and 2007 when she was five years old. Two additional victims came forward with information that Rueda had molested them numerous times between 2003 and 2015 when they were between the ages of 4 and 13. Additionally, a witness came forward with information that she had witnessed some of the molestations of the victims when they were little girls. After his arrest in February 2018, Rueda repeatedly sought to dissuade the victims and witnesses from speaking in court. However, despite his efforts to intimidate the victims, each of them came forward and testified during the trial. On November 29, 2018, the jury found Rueda guilty of all charges.

The sentencing is scheduled January 3, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 48 of the Ventura County Superior Court, County of Ventura. Rueda faces a maximum possible sentence of 135 years to life in prison.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 280 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and other professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.

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