



GREGORY D. TOTTEN
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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Date: Wednesday, January 9, 2019
Release No.: 19-003

Santa Paula Man Convicted of Child Molestation Sentenced to 135 Years to Life

VENTURA, California –District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Juan Benito Rueda (DOB 8/28/68), of Santa Paula, was sentenced on January 8, 2019, to the maximum possible sentence of 135 years to life in prison for molesting multiple children under the age of 14.

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 the age of five. Two additional victims came forward with information that Rueda had molested them numerous times between 2003 and 2012 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 out in court. However, despite his efforts to intimidate the victims, each victim appeared in court and testified during the trial. On November 29, 2018, a jury found Rueda guilty of nine counts of lewd acts upon a child under the age of 14 and of committing lewd acts upon multiple victims. He was sentenced Tuesday by Ventura County Superior Court Judge Jeffrey G. Bennett.

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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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