



# BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

August 4, 2021

### **CHILD MOLESTER SENTENCED TO LIFE**

A Chico man was sentenced today in Butte Superior Court to life imprisonment for sexually abusing two young boys, ages three and nine. Judge Corie J. Caraway imposed the maximum sentence under the law of 15 years to life in prison.

Vincent Balderas, 25, of Chico, had been charged with three counts of sexual molestation for the two separate victims, possession of child pornography, and meeting with a minor for a lewd purpose. Balderas was also charged with being an accessory after the fact for unsuccessfully attempting to destroy evidence that could be used against another sex-offending cohort of his. All of the offenses took place in 2019 in Chico. One of the victims was a relative and the other a child of an acquaintance.

Balderas' acts of molestation were exposed through an extensive investigation by the Chico Police Department into ongoing sexual abuse by multiple offenders with whom Balderas associated. Each of those other offenders were also charged and only one, David Kenneth Hamilton, Jr., remains to be convicted.

Pursuant to new regulations adopted by the California Department of Corrections this past May, life offenders need only serve 2/3 of their actual statutorily mandated sentence before being eligible for parole. This means Balderas will be eligible for parole after 10 years in custody, which is calculated from the day of his arrest in 2019.

