



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

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Child Molest, Child Abuse, and Torture Charges filed against Magalia Man

A Magalia man was charged this week with multiple counts of physical and sexual child abuse, possession of child pornography, and torture stemming from several years of violence within his Magalia home.

Robert Chavez, 41, was arrested on Friday evening, January 27, 2023, after a prolonged standoff with Butte County District Attorney investigators at his Magalia home.

Butte County Sheriff's deputies had responded to the children's school the day before after being alerted to alleged reports of child abuse within the home. Butte County Children's Services Division social workers responded to the school and home, and eventually, five children ranging in ages from four to sixteen years of age were taken into protective custody. During an initial interview with one of the female minors, DA investigators learned sexual abuse was occurring in the home at the hands of Chavez. The investigators obtained an arrest warrant for Chavez and went to his home that Friday afternoon.

Two women were also contacted within the home. Amanda Johnson, 38, and Kelsey Cabrera, 34, the mothers of the five children, were involved in a polyamorous relationship with Chavez over several years. During an initial search of the home pursuant to the arrest warrant, Chavez was not initially located, but eventually, investigators discovered he was hiding in a garage attic. Chavez was eventually taken into custody with the assistance of the sheriff's office and Cal Fire.

During the next few days, DA investigators conducted multiple searches of the home and interviews and learned the extent of the abuse occurring in the home at the hands of Chavez. There were multiple incidents of sexual abuse disclosed, as well as extreme levels of physical abuse.

On January 31, 2023, Chavez was initially arraigned on multiple charges ranging from sexual and physical abuse of minors to dissuading witnesses. He was held in custody at the Butte County Jail after a judge denied bail due to public safety concerns.

On February 3, 2023, Cabrera and Johnson were added to Chavez's criminal complaint and arraigned on one charge each of dissuading witnesses and three counts each of felony child abuse for failure to protect the children. Both women were held in the jail on \$300,000 bail each.

On the same date, and on the same criminal complaint, additional charges were added for Chavez including child pornography, torture and sex charges that can bring life in prison.

District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the apprehension of Chavez as well as the investigation of all three suspects was due to multi-agency cooperation between the Butte County District Attorney's Office, the Butte County Sheriff's Office, Paradise Police, CalFire, and Children's Services Division.

Ramsey noted his investigators were still actively investigating the case which includes downloading multiple computer hard drives and surveillance cameras found inside the home. He said he expects there will be additional charges as new evidence arises.

Cabrera and Johnson's next court dates are for Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. for entry of pleas.

Chavez's next court date is scheduled for Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. also for entry of plea.



Robert Chavez