



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

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Alleged Child Molester Held to Answer After Preliminary Hearing

A 31-year-old Chico man appeared in the Butte County Superior Court yesterday for a preliminary hearing on charges alleging he supplied drugs to his 15-year-old “girlfriend”; beat her; assaulted her with a firearm; and had sexual relations with her causing her to become pregnant and undergo an abortion. After the preliminary hearing, he was held to answer for his crimes that spanned from June 2021 through September 2022.

Silvano Angel Maldonado, Jr., 31, of Chico, appeared in court yesterday and heard the evidence supporting the judge’s ultimate decision to uphold 24 counts of child molest, domestic violence, child abuse, furnishing drugs to a minor, criminal threats, and assault with a firearm against a 15-year-old victim over the course of a year. A special enhancement of great bodily injury was also upheld as a result of the victim’s abortion.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the evidence presented showed that in June 2021, Maldonado held a gun to the victim’s head and threatened to kill her. The evidence also showed Maldonado was molesting the victim for the entirety of their contact from June 2021 through September 2022. The victim was 15 years old when Maldonado began to prey on her when he was 29 years old.

Ramsey said the evidence also showed the victim became pregnant by Maldonado and he promised to pay for the teenager’s abortion but later reneged.

Ramsey said the Chico Police Detective Sophia Parsons was alerted to the conduct by the victim’s mother last year. Parsons conducted an extensive investigation resulting in Maldonado’s arrest in October 2022. Maldonado has remained in the Butte County Jail since his arrest.

After the hearing, Butte County Superior Court Judge Kristen Lucena found there was sufficient evidence to proceed to trial on all the counts brought by the prosecution. Judge Lucena scheduled Maldonado’s case for arraignment and jury trial setting on July 13, 2022. Maldonado is being held without bail and he remains in custody. He faces over 30 years in state prison.