



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

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JURY FINDS MAN GUILTY OF SIX COUNTS OF CHILD MOLESTATION

After an eleven-day trial, a Butte County jury this morning found a man, who was on federal parole for child pornography, guilty of molesting two young sisters last year, when they were ages 10 and 7.

Joshua Chadwick, 40, of Oroville, was convicted of six individual counts of lewd and lascivious conduct involving the girls, along with a special enhancement for multiple victims. Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the girls, now ages 11 and age 8, bravely faced their molester in court and testified against him.

The trial prosecutor, Deputy District Attorney JJ Stark-Modlin, said, “Despite their tender years, the girls showed more bravery and resilience on the witness stand than most adults.” Stark-Modlin gave special recognition to a pair of specialized comfort dogs, Micah and Reuben, who sat at the girls’ feet while they testified in court. The Lutheran Churches of Yuba City and Elk Grove provided the dogs.

Ramsey said the girls, their older siblings and their parents moved into Chadwick’s home last year after moving out of the home of David Acuff, 38, of Oroville. Acuff is Chadwick’s cousin and he is currently pending trial for his earlier molest of the same girls when they lived with Acuff. Ramsey said the evidence presented at trial showed Chadwick targeted the girls as easy prey based on their previous molests at the hands of Acuff.

Chadwick remains in custody with no bail. Chadwick faces up to 43 years to life in state prison at his pending sentencing hearing on May 5, 2021.

Ramsey said Chadwick was previously convicted of federal charges of possession of child pornography and sentenced to five years in federal prison in 2012. Evidence produced at this trial included child pornography depicting the two sisters, which was found in Chadwick’s possession. Federal prosecutors are preparing to prosecute Chadwick for this child porn, which could bring an additional 50 years of federal prison time.

Summer Carver, 36, the children’s mother, last week plead guilty to four counts of Procuring a Child to Engage in a Lewd Act, and four counts of felony Child Abuse as a result of knowingly making her children available to Chadwick and Acuff. She is facing 19 years 4 months in state prison and is scheduled to be sentenced on April 28, 2021.

Ramsey praised the twelve deliberating jurors and three alternate juror for sitting through an emotional jury trial that was spread over 5 weeks. Noting that the jurors had to listen to and watch difficult evidence related to sexual acts with children, including the child pornography videos of the girls. Ramsey also noted, “Justice

is never easy and is rarely swift, yet despite the length of the trial and the complications of the COVID-19 pandemic, Butte County residents are taking their job as jurors seriously and rendered a guilty verdict after deliberating for nearly three days.”

Chadwick



Acuff



Carver



Comfort Dogs

