



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County
832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354
Mailing address: POB 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Telephone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 525-5545

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney
Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney
Chief Deputy District Attorneys
Jerry Begen
Alan Cassidy
Dave Harris

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: June 13, 2011
Re: Steven John Ryan #1416001

For More Information Contact:

Carol Shipley, Assistant District Attorney
Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Steven John Ryan, age 45, of Oakdale, was sentenced to 12 years in state prison, by the Honorable Thomas Zeff, for Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Child and Lewd and Lascivious Conduct with a Child. Deputy District Attorney Annette Rees prosecuted the case for the People.

The two victims testified at the preliminary hearing held in February. One victim, who is now 18 and lives outside of the county, testified she was 10 years old when she was molested. The other victim, then just 8 years old, would visit Ryan at his home in Oakdale during summer breaks in 2008. During those visits, Ryan would molest her.

The younger victim and her family members spoke at the sentencing today. The younger victim read from a crumpled yellow paper what she had written, "Steve, I hate you. I will never know why you touched me, and had me touch you. I will never forgive you for what you did."

Both counts are "strikes" under the "Three Strikes" law and would qualify the defendant for a sentence of 25-years-to-life if he were to be convicted of any felony offense in the future. Each charge also qualifies as a "one-strike" offense which means that if Ryan were ever to be convicted of another sexual offense, he would be facing a life sentence.

Rees noted that "most importantly, Ryan will have to register for the rest of his life as a sex offender. He was a softball coach, and wanted to be a peace officer. This is what the sex offender registry is all about," said Rees.

Ryan will also have to undergo evaluation as a sexually violent predator (SVP) before he is ever paroled. As an SVP, he may be civilly committed for an indeterminate sentence. He must serve 85% of his 12-year prison sentence before becoming eligible for parole.

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