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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Date: January 30, 2014 Re: Jonathan Robert Sandoval Case #1460422 Carol Shipley, Assistant District Attorney Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jonathan Robert Sandoval, age 18, of Modesto was sentenced to six years in State Prison for one felony count of Lewd and Lascivious Act upon a Child under the age of 14. A second count for the same crime against a second victim was dismissed in exchange for his plea to the strike, a State Prison sentence, and a waiver of liability for restitution purposes as to the second victim. Today's date in court was set for victim impact statements.

Deputy District Attorney Annette Rees prosecuted the case for the People and was asked to read the impact statement on behalf of the victim's mother. The victims are identified only as John Does 1 and 2, ages 4 and 7 years old. DDA Rees explained that although she was present, the victim's mother "did not want her words to be diluted by her emotions."

The impact statement included facts about how the victim's family took in the defendant as a foster placement and even with "a wealth of knowledge about the child" the victims' mother informed Judge Dawna Reeves "there was no history of inappropriate contact with other children." But it did not take long before problems emerged. "On June 8, 2013 my youngest son went into the house and my husband noticed he didn't come right back out. He found Mr. Sandoval with his hand inside my 4 year old son's pants. My 7 year old started to cry. 'Jonathan touches me too, but he always says he's sorry.'"

Her powerful statement went on, "That day had many more victim's than just the one Mr. Sandoval has been convicted of molesting. Not only were our children violated, our family was. We have been very committed to seeing that Mr. Sandoval be held accountable for his actions. Thank you for providing our family with some sense of closure."

Sandoval's conviction is a serious and violent strike offense, making him eligible for three strikes sentencing even under the new law. He is required to register as a sex offender for life if he is granted parole after serving a mandatory 85% of his prison sentence.