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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Date: December 14, 2023 Re: Daniel Louis Bonacich Convicted Wendell Emerson, Public Information Liaison Phone: (209) 525-5509

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Daniel Louis Bonacich, age 45, of Ceres was convicted on September 5, 2019 of several charges including: one count of sexual intercourse with a child 10 years of age or younger (Pen. Code section 288.7(a)), two counts of oral copulation with a child 10 years of age or younger (Pen. Code section 288.7(b)), continuous sexual abuse of a child (Pen. Code section 288.5(a)), lewd act upon a child 14 or 15 years of age (Pen. Code section 288(c)(1)), using a minor for posing or modeling involving sexual conduct (Pen. Code section 311.4(c)), preparing or possessing an image of a minor engaged in sexual conduct (Pen. Code section 311.11(a)) and exhibiting harmful matter (Pen. Code section 288.2(a)(2)). Deputy District Attorney Sameer Shukla prosecuted the case for the People.

Beginning when the female child was six years old, Bonacich, who was dating and living with the child's mother, forced the child to engage in sexual intercourse and forced the child to orally copulate him. Bonacich continued to sexually abuse the child until she reached the age of fourteen. While he molested the child, the child testified Bonacich took "countless" photographs of her in the nude and while engaged in sex acts. Bonacich also forced the child to watch pornographic videos while engaging in these acts. In searching the Bonacich residence, officers found a flash drive with 59 images depicting acts between the child and Bonacich.

Bonacich waived his right to a jury trial. Following Bonacich's court trial, the Honorable J. Richard Distaso found Bonacich guilty of the offenses. After his conviction, Bonacich sought a motion for new trial arguing several things, including that he was innocent of the offense and suggesting another individual had not only sexually molested the victim, but also that another individual had taken photographs of the child.

Following extensive briefing in this matter, former Officer George Woodward of the Ceres Police Department (CPD) and Sergeant Julio Amador of CPD testified once more as to the search of the Bonacich home and the discovery of flash drives which were found by Detective Quiroz of the CPD to contain child pornography. The Honorable J. Richard Distaso denied Bonacich's motion for new trial on April 19, 2023 and on October 18, 2023, sentenced Bonacich to serve a total of 52 years-to-life in state prison.

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