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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: December 16, 2015
Re: Aaron Vrh

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Aaron Anthony Vrh, age 49, of Turlock, was sentenced to 25 years to life in state prison. Vrh was convicted on October 28, 2015 after a two-week jury trial of Sexual Penetration with a Foreign Object by Force. Enhancements for personally inflicting serious bodily injury as well as great bodily injury during a domestic violence act were both found true by the jury. Chief Deputy District Attorney Annette Rees prosecuted the case.

Vrh's now ex-girlfriend (identified only as Jane Doe) testified at the trial. She told the jury how, after drinking at a neighbor's party on July 4, 2013, she and Vrh argued, he became angry, chased her into the bedroom of his home and sexually assaulted her by force. At the time, Vrh helped clean the victim up and take her to the hospital. He instructed her to tell the medical personnel that she was drunk and had accidentally sat on a plunger which caused her injury. A nurse at Emanuel Medical Center contacted the Turlock Police Department. Officer Briggs responded and, although the victim maintained the false version of events, Officer Briggs did not believe the injuries were caused by a plunger and he took photos of the external injury and bruising which were admitted at the trial over two years later.

Jane Doe maintained the false version of events and returned to the defendant's home after the assault. Several months later, once she had the confidence to leave the defendant, the victim described what had really happened to a Merced County deputy sheriff who had responded to her new residence after the defendant had again located her and physically assaulted her.

Two former girlfriends of the defendant each testified at the trial. Laura Valencia and Danica Esparza had prior romantic relationships with Vrh. Each of the women testified about Vrh's violence upon them when they tried to leave the relationship.

According to Rees, "Jane Doe is left with permanent injuries caused by the defendant's violent act, and her life is forever changed. Defendant Vrh now has a life sentence to reflect on his long history of violence upon women." Defendant's conviction is considered a "strike" under the Three Strikes Law and also requires him to register as a sex offender for life should he ever be granted parole.

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