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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: September 4, 2018
Re: James Francis Laidler
Child molest conviction & prison sentence

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that James Francis Laidler, age 33, of Modesto, has been convicted of sexually molesting a child under the age of 14 and sentenced to state prison. Deputy District Attorney Sameer Shukla prosecuted the case for the People.

On August 4, 2017, the Modesto Police Department served a search warrant on Laidler's home after receiving information that he had been sending hundreds of messages to multiple young boys. During an interview, Laidler admitted to sexually touching a 6-year-old boy in 2016 during a barbeque and pool party at a friend's house. Modesto Police located the victim who told police Laidler touched his genitals approximately seven times while they were both in the pool during the party.

On July 30, 2018, Laidler entered a no contest plea before Judge Linda McFadden to violating Penal Code §288(a)- Lewd or lascivious act with a child under the age of 14, a felony. On August 27th, Judge McFadden sentenced him to serve six years in state prison.

Laidler will be required to register with law enforcement as a sex offender for the rest of his life. He must also stay away from the victim for a period of at least ten years and will be required to pay restitution. This conviction also counts as a "strike" under California's "Three Strikes" law and can be used to increase any prison sentence Laidler might receive if he is convicted of another felony in the future after being released from prison.

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