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News from the Office of District Attorney Tori Verber Salazar

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 7, 2020

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**CHILD PREDATOR SENTENCED TO 50 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON
FOR LEWD ACTS WITH A CHILD UNDER 14**

Stockton – Today, District Attorney Tori Verber Salazar announced that the Honorable Ronald Northup sentenced Brian Paul Beghtel, age 50, to 50 years to life in state prison for committing Lewd or Lascivious acts with a child under 14, while having a previous conviction for a forcible sex crime.

District Attorney Tori Verber Salazar would like to thank the detectives from the Sacramento Valley Hi Tech Crimes Task Force (ICAC), and detectives from the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department for helping keep our communities safe, and Deputy District Attorney Elton Grau for obtaining a just and fair conviction. "These cases are the most devastating on all of the participants. Anytime we can achieve a resolution in which the perpetrator can no longer harm his prey, and a child does not have to testify in front of a jury, it is a huge success. These were heinous acts. Suffice it to say he will never be able to harm another child again," said District Attorney Verber Salazar. "We hope that this sentence provides the victims and their families with some relief as they move forward with their healing process."

According to court records, the Sacramento Valley Hi Tech Crimes Task Force, Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC), initiated an investigation in January of 2017 against those who distribute child exploitation material online. On February 1st, 2017, a search warrant was executed on Mr. Beghtel's residence by ICAC Detectives. Mr. Beghtel was a registered sex offender for a 1994 conviction for a lewd act with a child under 14. Law enforcement located a significant amount of child exploitation images and videos, as well as images of actual children that were determined to have been in contact with the defendant.

Mr. Beghtel abused over nine children from 1994 to 2017. Mr. Beghtel would befriend families with young children. Many of the families were economically challenged. He would lure the children to his home under the guise that he was providing the parents a “night-off” from parenting. While at his home, he would sexually abuse the children.

The case against Mr. Beghtel was approaching a date for jury trial when, on August 28, 2019, he entered into an agreement with the District Attorney’s Office in which he pleaded guilty to Count 29: Lewd or Lascivious Acts with a Child under 14 (P.C. §288(a)). The defendant also admitted to two sentencing enhancements, one for a prior conviction of a forcible sex crime (P.C. §667.61(D)(1)), and the other, a prior conviction for committing lewd acts upon a child (P.C. §1170.12(B)/667(D)). Both of those prior convictions arose from conduct occurring in Sacramento County.