



COUNTY OF FRESNO

Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 19, 2021

Jesus Tapia IV Sentenced to Life in Prison for the Sexual Assault of an 8-Year-Old Child

Today, November 19, 2021, Jesus Tapia, IV was sentenced to 39 years 8 months to Life in Prison for the sexual abuse of an 8-year-old child.

Tapia's sentence was handed down approximately a year and a half after he was found with numerous images and videos of children being sexually assaulted. Preliminary examinations of Tapia's cell phone uncovered over 5,000 Child Sexual Assault Material (CSAM) images and videos. During an extensive review of those images and videos, it was determined Tapia had been sexually molesting a then 8-year-old child with whom he resided. The material analyzed captured Tapia committing the sexual assaults.

Facing overwhelming evidence of criminality, Tapia pleaded to the following felony charges:

1. One count of Penal Code section 288.7(a) [sexual intercourse with a child 10 years of age or younger].
2. Four counts of Penal Code section 288(a) [lewd or lascivious acts upon a child].
3. One count of Penal Code section 311.11(c)(1) [possession of child pornography].

The stipulated sentence for these six charges is 39 years 8 months to Life in Prison.

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office would like to thank the Central California Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force for their diligent work in investigating this case. Without their efforts in researching the cyber tip and reviewing the evidence that led to Tapia's arrest, this sexual abuse may have continued unabated as the child-victim had yet to disclose the heinous abuse.

This matter was successfully prosecuted by Senior Deputy District Attorney Kaitlin Drake. Ms. Drake was assisted by Senior Investigator Derek Scott from the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigations, Fresno Sheriff Detectives Randall Heckman, Kenneth Kalar and Jesse Gloria, Fresno Police Department Detective Cassandra Stevens and other members of the ICAC Task Force.

Media may email FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov with any questions.

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