



ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

NEWS RELEASE



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Fillmore Man Sentenced to 100 Years to Life in Prison for Molestation

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Jose Zavala (DOB 06/13/85), of Fillmore, was sentenced to the maximum of 100 years to life in state prison for the sexual abuse of two minor victims. Zavala was previously convicted by a jury on November 10, 2025, of three counts of lewd acts upon a child and one count of continuous sexual abuse. Several special allegations were also found true, including that he took advantage of a position of trust or confidence and that the victims were particularly vulnerable.

Between 2019 and 2022, Zavala molested two victims. One was as young as six years old when the abuse started and the other was ten years old. The abuse took place regularly over several years. In 2023, both victims disclosed the abuse to mandated reporters who contacted law enforcement. Zavala gained access to the victims through a familial relationship.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Michael Kern, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Sexual Assault Unit, prosecuted the case.

"The imposition of the maximum sentence is warranted by the extreme and horrifying nature of these crimes," Mr. Kern said. "It further sends an unmistakable message that abuse of this kind will not be tolerated in our community."

Case: 2024001044

Defendant Information:

Jose Zavala (DOB 06/13/85)

Fillmore

Charges convicted of:

- (3 counts) PC 288(a) – Lewd act upon a child
- PC 288.5(a) – Continuous sexual abuse

Special allegations found true:

- PC 667.61(e)(4) – Multiple victim allegation
- PC 667.61(j)(2) – Victim under age 14
- PC 1203.066(a)(8) – Substantial sexual conduct with victim under 14 years of age
- CRC 4.421(a)(11) – The defendant took advantage of a position of trust or confidence to commit the offense
- CRC 4.421(a)(3) – Victim was particularly vulnerable