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# Pedophile Sentenced to Prison for Repeatedly Sexually Abusing Two Young Girls

*Christopher T. Gardner Was Convicted by a Jury of 15 Felony Counts*

San Diego County District Attorney [Summer Stephan](#) said today that Christopher T. Gardner, 33, has been sentenced to 325 years-to-life in prison for his serial sexual abuse of two young girls who were only 6-years-old when the abuse began.

Gardner molested the girls, who were relatives, over a 5-year period.

“Predators who rob children of their innocence and inflict lifelong trauma do not belong in our communities,” DA Stephan said. “This sentence sends an unmistakable message to abusers: you will be held accountable. I am deeply grateful to our specialized sexual abuse prosecution team for their dedication in bringing a measure of justice to the survivors.”

The abuse came to light when one of the girls was at a sleepover with her friend. In confidence, the victim confided that she had been touched inappropriately. The best friend felt this was too serious to keep secret and told her mom. Law Enforcement was contacted and investigated the case, ultimately arresting Gardner for sexual abuse. After his arrest, a third victim – another relative - also came forward. Now a young adult, the third victim disclosed that when she was about 7 or 8, the defendant had her orally copulate him.

During the trial, the first two victims testified to multiple acts of abuse including oral copulation, sexual penetration and sodomy. The third victim testified to the oral copulation incident that occurred many years prior. After a nine-day trial, Gardner was convicted of all 15 felony sex abuse charges on May 22.

Deputy District Attorney Miriam Shoal prosecuted this case.

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About the San Diego County District Attorney's Office

*The San Diego County DA's Office prosecutes all felony crimes in the county and misdemeanor crimes committed outside the City of San Diego. The office files about 40,000 criminal cases a year and balances prosecution with numerous crime prevention programs. District Attorney Summer Stephan leads the office of more than 1,000 dedicated employees who pursue fair and equal justice, and support victims daily across San Diego County.*