330 West Broadway San Diego, CA 92101 (619) 531-4040 SanDiegoDA.com



DWAIN D. WOODLEY

SUMMER STEPHAN DISTRICT ATTORNEY

January 16, 2025 For Immediate Release Contact: <u>Steve Walker</u> (619) 531-3890 <u>Tanya Sierra</u> (619) 531-3315

En Español Barbara Medina (619) 531-3305

Child Molester Sentenced to Prison for Crimes Against Multiple Victims

Defendant Recorded Himself Molesting Young Girls

San Diego County District Attorney <u>Summer Stephan</u> announced today a Chula Vista man has been sentenced to 25 years-to-life in prison for molesting young girls and possessing a mountain of child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

Antonio O. Medina Jr., 33, was convicted by pleading guilty to three felony counts of lewd acts on a child and one count of possessing CSAM. The San Diego County Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC), which includes law enforcement officers, DA prosecutors and investigators, are experts in retrieving and dissecting digital evidence. Their work led the arrest, prosecution and sentencing of the defendant.

"This child predator's reign of terror has come to an end, and he will spend the next 20 years in prison for his horrific crimes of harming girls as young as 4-years-old." DA Stephan said. "Child molesters, who are often trusted people within families, harm children in the worst way, stealing their innocence and causing years of trauma and pain. They usually don't stop until they are discovered and stopped by law enforcement. We want victims of child molestation and their families to know that coming forward and reporting allows justice to prevail and stops these predators from hurting any other child."

While Medina was being prosecuted for possessing more than 1,000 videos of child sexual abuse material, investigators also uncovered an old laptop that contained videos the defendant made of himself molesting young girls. The videos were taken between 2011 and 2015 and were of nine different girls between the ages of 4 and 9. The identities of the victims and locations of the assaults were initially unknown. After almost a year of investigation, and with the assistance of law enforcement in Kern County and Bakersfield, California, San Antonio, Texas, and San Diego's ICAC Task Force, investigators were able to identify some of the victims and prove that the jurisdiction of the crimes allowed San Diego to prosecute them.

Some victims remain unidentified, and prosecutors expressed hope that they seek trauma and other supportive services for the crimes committed on them. Child sexual abuse can affect a victim forever. Victims suffer higher rates of school difficulty, depression, substance abuse,



anxiety, post-traumatic stress, eating or sleeping disorders, and suicide. For more information on spotting red flags of abuse, click <u>here</u>.

This case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Andrew Hart who is a specialized child abuse and child sexual abuse material prosecutor.

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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.