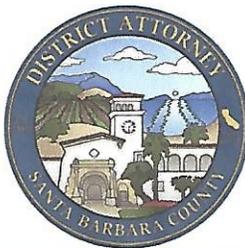


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 06-367

RELEASE NUMBER

June 24, 2016

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY *Joyce E. Dudley*, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Jennifer Karapetian, Deputy District Attorney

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******* PRESS RELEASE *******

June 24, 2016

Re: *People v. Norbert Manalisay Cruz*, Case No. 1356795

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that a Santa Maria jury returned guilty verdicts Thursday afternoon in a child molestation case. The defendant, 55-year old Norbert Manalisay Cruz, now faces a prison sentence of 125 years to life.

The jury found Defendant Cruz guilty, as charged, of all seven felony counts, including sexual intercourse with a child 10 or younger, oral copulation of a child 10 or younger, sexual penetration of a child 10 or younger, and aggravated sexual assault of a child.

Tragically, Cruz was the victim's foster father between 2009 and 2011, while she was between the ages of 8 and 10. During that timeframe, Defendant Cruz repeatedly sexually abused her, in her home, as he made her promise never to tell anyone.

Fortunately, the victim was placed with another family in late 2011. It was there that she finally gained the courage to tell her new foster mother what the defendant had done to her.

Sentencing will be on July 27, 2016, in Department 8, in front of the Honorable Judge Gustavo Lavayen. In addition to his prison sentence, Cruz will also have to register as a sex offender for life.

The Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office would like to commend the Santa Maria Police Department for its thorough investigation in this case, and thank both the Santa Maria Police Department and Child Welfare Services for their commitment to finding justice for this child and the other children in our community.

District Attorney Dudley further stated, "Horrendous cases like this all too often go unprosecuted, because they are unreported. In this case we worked with a very brave victim, a loving foster mother, a determined law enforcement and social service agency, all of whom were supported by a stellar prosecution team led by Deputy District Attorney Jennifer Karapetian."

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