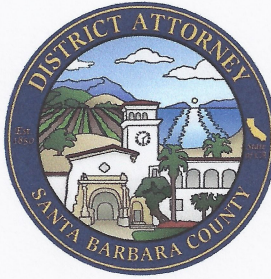


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 03-148

RELEASE NUMBER

March 27, 2013

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY *Joyce E. Dudley*, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

A. Brooke Gerard, Deputy District Attorney

CONTACT PERSON (805) 737-7760

* * * * * P R E S S R E L E A S E * * * * *

March 27, 2013

Offender Pleads Guilty to Multiple Sex Crimes

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that on March 27, 2013, Saul Padilla, age 48, of Corona, California, pled guilty to multiple sex crimes for an agreed upon sentence of 20 years in state prison and lifetime registration as a sex offender.

The charges stemmed from a traffic stop at 3:00 a.m. in Vandenberg Village in January 2012 when the defendant had a 14-year-old girl in his car. The girl, who later testified at the preliminary hearing, told deputies that she had been kidnapped and sexually assaulted by the defendant. Subsequent investigation, by both the defense and the prosecution, revealed that the defendant first made contact with the child two years earlier by posing as a 15 year old boy in the Disney online game, Club Penguin. Over the following two years the relationship developed to the point that the defendant began visiting the girl in Lompoc without her parents' knowledge, persuading her to skip class and meet him to engage in sexual activity, all in violation of the law.

Sentencing is set for May 8, 2013, in Department 8, of the Santa Maria Division of the Superior Court.

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