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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: January 15, 2014  
Re: Steven Gilbert

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Steven Gilbert, age 21, of Modesto was sentenced on January 10, 2014 to fourteen years in state prison for one count of Continuous Sexual Assault of a Child under the age of 14, and one count of Lewd and Lascivious Acts upon a Child under the age of 14. Gilbert pled no contest to the charges on December 19, 2013. Deputy District Attorney Annette Rees prosecuted the case for the People.

At a preliminary hearing, all three of Gilbert's victims detailed the sexual abuse committed by Gilbert while he lived in the home. Two boys and a girl, between the ages of 10 and 16, testified that the abuse occurred in Modesto from 2010 through 2012.

The victims' mother, Toshalee Lane, spoke at the sentencing hearing. She told Gilbert he should "stop trying to blame the victims and accept responsibility. You are the only one responsible for what you took away from my family. I hope this never happens to your daughter."

Both of the charges Gilbert pled to are considered "strikes" making him eligible for sentencing under California's Three Strikes Law if he is convicted of a new crime in the future. He is also subject to evaluation by the Department of Mental Health, prior to any release from prison, as a Sexually Violent Predator with a potential indeterminate sentence to a State Hospital. He is also required to register for life as a sex offender.