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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Yolo County Judge Sentences Davis Man to Prison for Molesting His 15 Year-Old Niece

(Woodland, CA) – January 18, 2011 District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that on January 18, 2011, Yolo County Superior Court Judge Timothy L. Fall sentenced Demetrio Burciaga, 46, of Davis, to state prison for 2 years, 4 months for three felony counts of lewd and lascivious acts upon a child fifteen years-old for the crimes he committed against his 15 year-old niece. On November 19, 2010, a Yolo County jury convicted Burciaga for committing these crimes.

Burciaga's convictions stem from his lewd actions with his niece on February 5, 2010. On the morning of February 5, 2010, Burciaga molested his niece after she stayed the night at his house in Davis. The previous evening, Burciaga picked the victim up from her house in Woodland because she had gotten into a fight with her father. The following morning, Burciaga told the victim she did not have to go to school. Burciaga's sons, however, left for school that morning leaving the victim and Burciaga home alone. During that day, Burciaga molested her by touching her in inappropriate places on her body. Burciaga told the victim not to tell anybody about what he did.

Later that day, the victim told relatives what Burciaga did to her. One week later, the molest was reported to Yolo County Child Protective Services. Yolo County Child Protective Services notified the Yolo County Sheriff's Office which started an investigation which resulted in Burciaga's arrest.

After Burciaga was arrested, Burciaga offered money to family members if they would change their story and tell the police the crime never occurred. Family refused his offer and told him what he was doing was wrong.

Burciaga testified in his defense at trial. Burciaga admitted massaging his niece, but denied that he touched her on her body with his hands. The jury rejected defendant's claims, finding Burciaga guilty of each and every count.

Burciaga faced a maximum sentence of 4 years, 4 months in state prison. In imposing the 2 year, 4 month prison sentenced, Judge Timothy L. Fall commented Burciaga's actions were particularly egregious given that he took advantage of a position of trust in a situation where his niece needed him to be there for her. As a result of this conviction, Burciaga will be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.