



COUNTY OF YOLO
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
JEFF W. REISIG, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHILD KILLER SENTENCED TO LIFE

Woodland, CA – March 3, 2008 - A Yolo County judge sentenced Javier Oliva Guerrero, 30, to twenty-five years to life for the August, 2004 killing of two year old Zenaido Mendoza. Yolo County Superior Court Judge Timothy L. Fall listened to the victim impact statement of Zenaido's nine year old sister, who stated that she is still fearful of Guerrero and continues to have nightmares about her brother's death. Guerrero was the boyfriend of the victim's mother and was responsible for the daily care of Zenaido. Dr. Mark Super of the Sacramento County Coroner's Office testified at the January jury trial that the cause of the child's death was a "non-accidental blow to the abdomen" which caused major internal injuries, including a severed pancreas and ruptured spleen. Guerrero was convicted by the jury of Felony Injury to a Child Causing Death.

In a comment on the case, prosecuting attorney Rob Gorman stated, "The verdict and sentence finally brings closure to Zenaido's family by ensuring that Guerrero will spend the rest of his life behind bars."

District Attorney Jeff Reisig praised the efforts of the West Sacramento Police Department, the Elk Grove Police Department, the Fairfield Police Department, the Washington State Attorney General's Office, the Sacramento County Coroner's Office and Yolo County District Attorney investigators for their hard work on the case.

For more information, contact Chief Deputy District Attorney Ann Hurd at (530) 666-8180.