



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

12/21/17

**TULARE MAN FOUND GUILTY OF 44 COUNTS OF CHILD
MOLESTATION**

Late yesterday afternoon in Department 5 of the Tulare County Superior Court, Visalia Division, Judge Joseph Kalashian presiding, a Tulare County jury found John Weece, age 60, of Tulare, guilty of three counts of sexual intercourse with a minor under the age of ten, six counts of oral copulation with a minor under the age of ten, three counts of digital penetration of a minor under the age of ten, twenty-nine counts of forcible lewd act upon a child under the age of fourteen, two counts of lewd act upon a child under the age of fourteen and one count of using a minor for sex acts. The jury also found true the special allegation of substantial sexual conduct. Each count is a felony and 43 of the counts are strike offenses.

Forty-one of the crimes occurred between August 9, 2013 and February 20, 2016 against a female victim, who was between six and eight years old at the time of the sexual assaults. The other three crimes occurred between May 27, 2008 and December 31, 2011 against two separate female victims, who were between the ages of nine and twelve at the time of the sexual assaults. All forty-four crimes occurred in various locations within the county.

Sentencing is set for January 25, 2018 in Department 5 of the Tulare County Superior Court, where Weece faces 510 years to life in state prison. Weece will also be required to register as a sex offender for the remainder of his life.

“We thank the jurors for their service, especially during the holidays. The magnitude of this case no doubt weighed heavy on them,” said District Attorney Tim Ward. “I am proud of our Crimes against Children Division for making sure this predator cannot harm our communities again.”

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Chelsea Wayt of the Crimes against Children Division and investigated by Detective Florence Cotton of the Tulare County Sheriff’s Office and Investigator Khoua Lopez of the District Attorney’s Bureau of Investigations.

*Media inquiries can be directed to the Office of the District Attorney, County of Tulare
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