



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

---

**PRESS RELEASE**

1/11/17

**VISALIA MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR MURDER OF  
STEPSON**

Today in Department 6 of the Tulare County Superior Court, Visalia Division, Judge Gary Paden sentenced Miguel Pacheco, age 36, of Visalia, to 25 years to life in state prison for the 2013 murder of his stepson.

On November 9, 2016, a Tulare County jury found Pacheco guilty of one count of first-degree murder.

On November 18, 2013, Pacheco reported his 14-year-old stepson as missing, which prompted an extensive search for the juvenile by the Visalia Police Department as well as other agencies and volunteers.

Several days later, an off-duty National Park Service employee was walking her dog in a remote area of Sequoia National Park when she discovered the teen's body deposited near a dead-end dirt road. An autopsy the following day revealed the cause of death to be by ligature strangulation. During the investigation, it was determined the teen was killed inside the family home.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Sean Sangree and investigated by Officer Scott Nelson of the Visalia Police Department and Special Agent Nicholas Pottratz of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

*Media inquiries can be directed to the Office of the District Attorney, County of Tulare  
Assistant District Attorney Dave Alavezos (559) 636-5494*