



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

2/7/17

**FORMER EXETER HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER SENTENCED TO
PRISON FOR CHILD MOLESTATION**

Today in Department 6 of the Tulare County Superior Court, Visalia Division, Judge Gary Paden sentenced Matthew Varpness, age 38, of Visalia, to six years in state prison after pleading no contest as charged to sixteen various counts of sexual offenses against minors.

Varpness, a former teacher at Exeter High School, pleaded no contest to nine counts of lewd acts upon a child age 15, two counts of contacting a minor for a sexual offense, one count of attempted oral copulation of a person under 18, under one count of meeting a minor for lewd purposes, one count of distributing or showing child pornography to a minor, one count of unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor and one count of possession of child pornography. Each count is a felony.

The crimes occurred between April 1, 2014 and March 3, 2015 in the County of Tulare against three separate victims. Varpness will be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life and will be required to pay restitution to the victims as well as various fines and fees.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Chelsea Wayt of the Major Crimes Division and investigated by Detective Josh Pena formerly of the Visalia Police Department, now Huntington Beach Police Department.

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