



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

4/28/17

TULARE MAN FOUND GUILTY OF VIOLENT RAPE

Yesterday in Department 6 of the Tulare County Superior Court, Visalia Division, Judge Gary Paden presiding, a Tulare County jury found Joseph Velasquez, age 28, of Tulare, guilty of forcible rape and other violent sex crimes.

Velasquez was convicted of one count of forcible rape, two counts of sexual penetration with a foreign object, three counts of oral copulation by force, fear, or duress, one count of sodomy by force, one count of assault with intent to commit a forcible sex act during the commission of a first-degree burglary, and one count of first-degree burglary with a person present. Each count is a felony. The jury also found true the special allegation that Velasquez committed a burglary with the intent to commit a forcible sex offense. The court also found Velasquez possessed a prior prison term for stalking.

At 5:30 pm on July 27, 2014, Velasquez knocked on the door of a Tulare home, and the adult female victim, who was alone and did not know Velasquez, answered. After asking for water and aspirin, Velasquez, who was wearing an ankle monitor, forced his way in to the residence and locked the door. He then sexually assaulted and raped the victim. Velasquez was apprehended in Hanford the next day. He was identified by his tattoos including one of Winnie the Pooh.

Sentencing is set for June 9, 2017, in Tulare County Superior Court where Velasquez faces up to 175 years to life in state prison.

The case was prosecuted by Supervising Deputy District Attorney Cindy Underwood and investigated by the Tulare Police Department and the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigations.

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