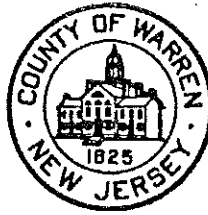


OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR
413 Second Street
Belvidere New Jersey 07823
Phone: (908) 475-6275
Fax: (908) 475-6344



JAMES L. PFEIFFER
County Prosecutor
ANTHONY J. ROBINSON
First Assistant Prosecutor
MICHAEL C. DEVLIN
Chief of Detectives

County of Warren

PRESS RELEASE

CONVICTED: **Gilberto Morales**
 56 Summit Avenue
 Phillipsburg, New Jersey 08865

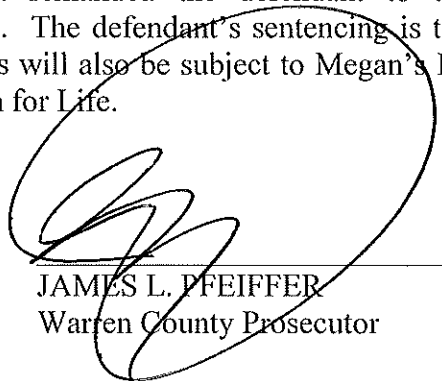
On August 27, 2021, a Warren County jury found Gilberto Morales guilty on all counts of a three (3) count Indictment. The trial occurred in Superior Court before the Honorable H. Matthew Curry, J.S.C. The State was represented by Assistant Prosecutor Jessica L. Cardone. The defendant was represented by John McGuigan, Esquire.

Specifically, Defendant Morales was convicted of the following:

- Aggravated Sexual Assault [victim under thirteen (13) years old] in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2(a)(1), a first degree offense. This offense carries a minimum of twenty-five (25) years New Jersey State Prison with twenty-five (25) years of parole ineligibility and a maximum of life in prison pursuant to the Jessica Lunsford Act.
- Sexual Assault [victim under thirteen (13) years old and defendant four (4) years older] in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2(B), a second degree offense. This offense carries a maximum of ten (10) years New Jersey State Prison pursuant to the No Early Release Act.
- Endangering the Welfare of a Child (sexual conduct), in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4(a)(1), a second degree offense. This offense carries a maximum of ten (10) years New Jersey State Prison.

These convictions stem from the defendant committing acts of sexual penetration and sexual contact, upon a child victim. The acts occurred on April 25, 2019, when the child was twelve (12) years old. The child victim was known to the defendant. These crimes occurred in Phillipsburg, Warren County. The Warren County Prosecutor's Office, Special Victims Unit and the Phillipsburg Police Department conducted the initial investigation.

Upon his conviction, the Court remanded the defendant to the Warren County Correctional Center pending his sentence. The defendant's sentencing is tentatively scheduled for October 22, 2021. Defendant Morales will also be subject to Megan's Law Registration, an Avenel Evaluation and Parole Supervision for Life.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Pfeiffer', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

Approved by:

JAMES L. PFEIFFER
Warren County Prosecutor

Date: August 30, 2021