

OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

**JOYCE E. DUDLEY**  
District Attorney



DA 10-626

RELEASE NUMBER

October 7, 2021

RELEASE DATE

*Joyce E. Dudley*

Benjamin Ladinig, Supervising District Attorney

Contact: (805) 568-3236

\*\*\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*\*\*

**RE: *People v. Howard W. Case# 17CR07379***

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced that late yesterday afternoon on October 6, 2021, a Santa Barbara jury unanimously found Howard W., 59, guilty of guilty of seven counts of child molestation committed on his two daughters. The jury also found true the special allegation pursuant to Penal Code section 667.61 that the defendant committed the child molestations against multiple victims.

The successful prosecution was the result of the bravery of the defendant's two daughters who spoke of their abuses to local school counselors, who then notified our local agencies and an investigation ensued. Through the diligent work of the school counselors, Child Welfare Services and the excellent investigation conducted by Sergeant Matt Banks of the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department, the defendant was arrested and successfully prosecuted.

District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley commented "The heroic victims/survivors showed great courage in testifying and confronting their abuser in order to hold him accountable for her horrendous acts of molestation and child abuse." Prosecuting Attorney, Supervising Deputy District Attorney Benjamin Ladinig thanked the jury for their extraordinary patience with the process and fulfilling their duty to serve during these unprecedented times. The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced by the Honorable Judge Thomas R. Adams on November 15, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. in Department 1 of the Santa Barbara Superior Court.

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