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UPDATE **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release
March 13, 2026

CHILD MOLESTER SENTENCED TO LIFE

A Chico man who was previously convicted by a Butte County jury of molesting and exposing pornography to his 6-year-old stepdaughter was sentenced to life in state prison today.

John Edward Fuller, 35, of Chico, who was convicted of multiple counts of molestation, received a sentence of 66 years and eight months to life in state prison from Butte County Superior Court Judge Jesus Rodriguez.

The victim, now 13 years old and living out of state, appeared in court via a remote television feed to hear the sentence. A Butte County District Attorney victim advocate in the courtroom read the victim's impact statement, which ended with "Today I am choosing to speak not just about the pain, but about my strength. What happened hurt me, but it did not break me. I am standing here today because I refuse to let what was done to me silence me."

Fuller's defense attorney argued in court today that the judge should run the multiple sentences concurrently and only impose 15 years to life for all the counts. The trial prosecutor, Veronica Thomas, noted to the judge that the sentences should run consecutively, since each offense was a separate act committed by Fuller. Additionally, she pointed out that Fuller has shown no remorse as he refused to provide a statement to the probation department, which prepared the sentencing report for today's hearing.

Judge Rodriguez sentenced Fuller to the maximum allowable term and ordered each count to run consecutively.

Ramsey noted that under California's current "Elderly Parole Program" passed by the legislature in 2020, regardless of the time ordered by the judge, Fuller will have the opportunity to be released on parole when he appears before a parole board at age 50.

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
January 27, 2026

CHICO MAN FOUND GUILTY OF MOLESTING STEP-DAUGHTER FACES LIFE IN PRISON

A Butte County jury today found a Chico man guilty of molesting his 6-year-old stepdaughter and now faces a life term in state prison.

John Edward Fuller, 35, of Chico, was found guilty by a seven-man, five-woman jury of five counts of child molestation and one count of showing pornography.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the charges stemmed from late 2018 to early 2019, when Fuller was married to the child's mother.

In 2019, the mother separated from Fuller and moved to South Carolina. In 2020, while living in South Carolina, the victim disclosed that when the family was living together in Chico, Fuller showed the six-year-old girl pornography and asked her to perform on him what he had shown her. The victim said Fowler made her engage in multiple sexual acts.

The mother reported the girl's disclosure to the Chico Police, who learned that Fuller was stationed at Fort Rucker, Alabama, as a U.S. Army warrant officer candidate. Chico Police detectives prepared an arrest warrant for Fuller and his electronics. In September 2022, Fuller was arrested pursuant to the warrant and detained by Army special agents. Shortly after, Chico Police detectives flew to Alabama to take custody of Fuller.

Chico Police detectives, in conjunction with the Butte County District Attorney's Office, forensically downloaded Fuller's electronic devices. A review of the devices revealed hundreds of images of anime-style child pornography stored on Fuller's phone. The images depicted the childlike characters in highly sexualized positions, including some of the acts that the victim described to a forensic interviewer as having been committed by Fowler with her.

The child testified before the jury as to the acts perpetrated on her by Fowler.

In his final argument to the jury, Fowler's defense attorney claimed the child had been coached by her mother to lie.

However, the special victim unit trial prosecutor, Butte County deputy district attorney Veronica Thomas, countered that the sexual acts described by the victim in both the earlier police forensic interview and on the stand before the jury were "things that no six-year-old would know or could describe in such detail" without having to unfortunately experience them.

Fuller had been out on bail until today's verdict. Butte County Superior Court Judge Jesus Rodriguez, who presided over the trial, remanded Fuller to the Butte County Jail without bail. Fuller is scheduled for sentencing on March 13, 2026, where he faces a sentence of upwards of 68 years to life in prison.



John Fuller