



## Rod Underhill, District Attorney

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### **Portland man found guilty of threatening on duty DHS caseworkers**

Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that a jury recently returned a guilty verdict in State of Oregon vs Freddy Velasquez-Soto.

During the two day trial, the state presented evidence that showed two Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) caseworkers met with the defendant on August 14, 2017 for a pre-arranged home visit to discuss safety planning for the defendant's child. During the meeting, Velasquez-Soto, 51, became aggressive with the two DHS caseworkers and threatened to kill them and anyone who attempted to interfere with his child.

The defendant was convicted of two counts of unlawful use of a weapon, menacing, and obstructing governmental administration.

The jury heard testimony from the DHS caseworkers who reported that as they were leaving the residence, located in the 500 block of Southeast Morrison Street in Portland, Oregon, Velasquez-Soto confronted one of them "chest to chest" and threatened to cut the victim's face and made statements to kill him. During that moment, one of the DHS workers saw the defendant reach into his pocket and pull out what appeared to be a knife.

The two DHS caseworkers called 9-1-1 and fled the residence from a second story window using a fire escape where they hid from the defendant until law enforcement arrived, according to testimony presented at trial.

A detective assigned to the case obtained surveillance video, which was presented at trial, which captured some of the events described by the DHS caseworkers.

This case was prosecuted by Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney Chuck Mickley who is assigned to the Multnomah County Multidisciplinary Child Abuse Team.

Sentencing is scheduled for January 23, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. before Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Angel Lopez.

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office will have no other comment on this case at this time.

This case was investigated by the Multnomah County Child Abuse Team and the Multnomah County Multidisciplinary Child Abuse Team, which includes representatives from local law enforcement, public schools, hospitals, courts, health departments, the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), and the Oregon Department of Employment Child Care Division.

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Multidisciplinary Child Abuse Team is responsible for reviewing and coordinating all child abuse and neglect cases in Multnomah County. The team also handles all child homicides, felony child physical abuse cases, felony child abandonment cases, custodial interference cases, and felony sex crimes where the victim is currently under the age of 18 and where the perpetrator is considered a family member.

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