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Freddy Velasquez-Soto receives five year prison sentence for threatening violence against DHS caseworkers

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that 51-year-old Freddy Velasquez-Soto received a five year prison sentence following a jury's verdict last month finding him guilty of two counts each of unlawful use of a weapon, menacing, and obstructing governmental administration.

"Freddy Velasquez-Soto has an extensive criminal history of committing violent crimes, which stretches back more than three decades," said Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney Chuck Mickley who prosecuted this case. "This is an appropriate sentence given the defendant's violent record. He has multiple prior convictions for both threatening and assaulting people with knives, which demonstrates he is capable and willing to carry out those threats."

During the two day trial, which was held in December 2018, 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 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 litigated by 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 determined not to be a stranger to the child.

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