



**SHERIFF LAURIE SMITH**

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**For Immediate Release- Media**

**Office of the Sheriff**

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**TYPE OF INCIDENT:** Possession/Distribution of Child Pornography and Sexual Acts with a Minor

**LOCATION:** Saratoga Federated Church, 20390 Park Place, Saratoga, CA 95070

**CASE NUMBER:** 19-129-0114S

**DETAILS:**

On May 9, 2019 at approximately 10:00am, deputies assigned to our West Valley Patrol Division received a call from the Saratoga Federated Church in Saratoga. The reporting party said that three adult males entered the church and claimed they were victims of sexual abuse over the course of the last five years.

The suspect was identified as 31-year old Joseph Silva Jr. from Campbell. Silva is a youth leader at the church and also works as a teacher at a Mandarin Immersion Program that is hosted at the West Valley Presbyterian Church in Cupertino.

At approximately 12:40pm, deputies arrested Silva Jr. after they conducted their preliminary investigation. Silva Jr. disclosed to investigators that he sent, requested and received explicit photos of his genitals and photos of the victim's genitals via text message and social media with all of the victims.

So far, there are four confirmed victims [three adults (19-20), who were juveniles at the time of the offenses and one minor (15-17)]. There are also two other potential juvenile victims, as detectives are actively working the case.

Silva Jr. was booked into the Main Jail in San Jose on possession and distribution of child pornography, lewd acts and contributing to the delinquency of a minor and sexual battery. Silva Jr. was later released on \$124,000 bail and is scheduled to appear in court on Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup> 2019.

This is an active and ongoing investigation. Sheriff's detectives are working closely with church officials to ensure there are no other victims.

Anyone with information on this case is asked to contact the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office at (408) 808-4500. Alternatively, you can contact the Sheriff's Office Investigative Services anonymous tip line at (408) 808-4431.

**Prepared By: Deputy Michael Low**  
**Approved By: U/S Sung**

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