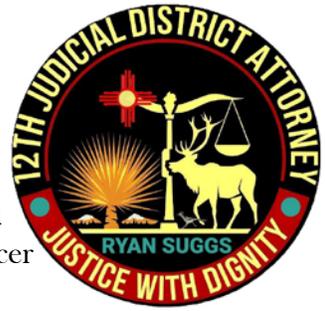




STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Office of the District Attorney
Twelfth Judicial District

Ryan Suggs
District Attorney

Hannah Burleson
Chief Administrative Officer



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**JURY CONVICTS OTERO COUNTY MAN OF MULTIPLE
CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CHARGES**

September 19, 2025

Twelfth Judicial District Attorney, Ryan Suggs, announces an Otero County jury found John Nelson West, 58, of Alamogordo guilty of 5 counts of Criminal Sexual Penetration, 1 count of Criminal Sexual Contact of a Minor and 1 count of Enticement of a Child on Wednesday, September 17, 2025.

The investigation began on May 30, 2023, when the child courageously reported to law enforcement officials that her step-father had recently sexually abused her and the abuse had been ongoing over a period of time. Following her report, an arrest warrant was issued for West, who was subsequently taken into custody.

“Our office will vigorously prosecute crimes against children,” said District Attorney’s Office leadership. “The verdict in this case reflects our unwavering commitment to protecting the most vulnerable members of our community and ensuring that those who harm children are held fully accountable.”

The successful prosecution of this case was made possible through the collaborative efforts of multiple agencies. The investigation was conducted by the Alamogordo Police Department, and the Child Advocacy Center, Kid’s Inc., was instrumental in providing a secure, safe and professional setting to give the child a voice to be heard.

The case was prosecuted by Chief Deputy District Attorney Michael Heitz and Deputy District Attorney Renee Broberg. Sentencing, which will be held at a later date, will be held before the Honorable District Court Judge Stephen P. Ochoa.

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