



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
POLICE
DEPARTMENT

POLICE CHIEF KELLEY WARNER
101 NORTH MAIN STREET, HARRISONBURG, VA 22802
OFFICE: (540) 437-2600
FAX: (540) 437-2691
WWW.HARRISONBURGVA.GOV/POLICE

For Immediate Release

March 21, 2022

Contact: Lt. Todd Miller, Criminal Investigations Commander
(540) 437-2685
christopher.miller@harrisonburgva.gov

Defendant Found Guilty of 19 Sexual Assault Felonies from the 1980s

HARRISONBURG, VA – In February of 2019, a sexual assault victim contacted the Harrisonburg Police Department to report that Alvaro Fernandez, 75, of Florida and Uruguay, had sexually abused him in Harrisonburg from 1982 to 1986. A detective from HPD’s Crimes Against Children Unit, which is a member of the Northern Virginia Washington, D.C. Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, with assistance from Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), launched a criminal investigation.

Detectives learned that Fernandez had adopted multiple children in Uruguay and brought several with him to the United States. According to multiple interviews with various victims both locally and abroad, Fernandez physically and sexually abused and exploited children under his control. In June of 2019, HPD and HSI detectives traveled to Florida where they interviewed and arrested Fernandez. He was then extradited to Virginia.

On March 19, 2022, after a two-day trial in Rockingham County Circuit Court, a jury found Alvaro Fernandez guilty of all 19 felony charges. Fernandez was found guilty of 16 counts of aggravated sexual battery of a child under the age of 13 and three counts of sodomy of a child under the age of 13. He is in custody at the Rockingham County Jail as he awaits sentencing in July.

Senior Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney Alycia Eldridge asked the jury for justice for the victim. “I hope that this verdict is inspiring for victims to see that justice can happen even after so much time and that it is never too late to come forward,” Eldridge said after the verdict.



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
POLICE
DEPARTMENT

POLICE CHIEF KELLEY WARNER

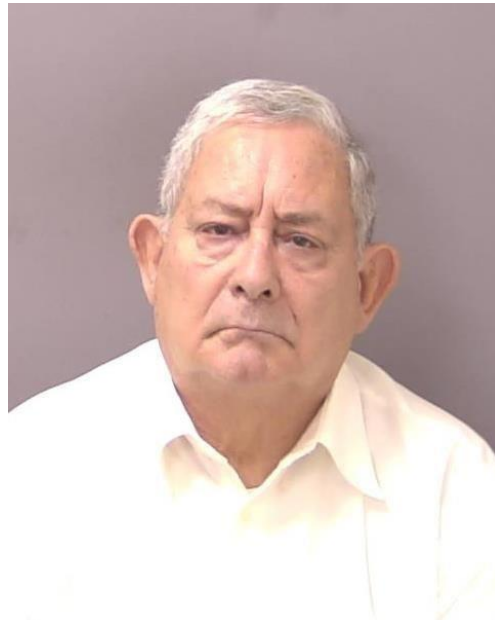
101 NORTH MAIN STREET, HARRISONBURG, VA 22802

OFFICE: (540) 437-2600

FAX: (540) 437-2691

WWW.HARRISONBURGVA.GOV/POLICE

Virginia law does not have a statute of limitations for felony prosecutions. Victims are encouraged to report crimes to police and to seek counseling and advocacy services. Locally, victims can contact the Collins Center and Child Advocacy Center at 540-434-2272.



Pictured Above: Alvaro Fernandez

Approved for release by:
Captain Jason Kidd

###