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**Guilty Verdicts Rendered In Child Sexual Abuse Case That Resulted In Pregnancy
People v. Joseph Poindexter; Kern County Superior Court Case # LF013664 A**

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant child sexual abuse conviction today. In a case presented by Deputy District Attorney Brad Taconi, a Kern County jury found defendant Joseph Levi Poindexter guilty of a felony charge of Lewd and Lascivious Acts with a Child Under 14 Years of Age and one felony charge of Unlawful Sexual Intercourse with a Minor with an enhancement for causing Great Bodily Injury to the victim.

In October of 2019, Joseph Poindexter, who was then 18 years old, initiated a sexual relationship with the 13-year-old victim. Prior to the victim's fourteenth birthday, Poindexter began having sexual intercourse with the thirteen-year-old girl. Shortly after she turned fourteen, the victim learned that she was pregnant with the defendant's child. During the pregnancy, detectives with the Kern County Sheriff's Office were notified that the child was pregnant. The victim's baby was born in August of 2020 and DNA samples were collected from the baby, the mother, and Poindexter. An analysis by the Kern Regional Crime Laboratory confirmed that the defendant was the father of the fourteen-year-old's child.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction, stating that "Age of consent laws are designed to protect children from sexual advances that they should never have to endure from adults. When adults violate these social and legal norms to sexually abuse children, the law provides significant consequences."

Sentencing is set for March 9, 2023, before Superior Court Judge John Brownlee. Poindexter faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.