

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SIX MONTHS IN JAIL FOR FATHER WHO FAILED TO PROVIDE CHILD SUPPORT FOR HIS DAUGHTER

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flipppo announced that on February 22, 2011, Martin Diaz, 43 and a resident of Salinas, was sentenced to serve 185 days in Monterey County jail for failing to provide child support for his 13-year-old daughter.

Diaz, also known as Joel Espinoza, was previously convicted in 2006 for failing to provide support and served 180 days in jail. Upon being released from jail, he continued to provide no support for his daughter. He failed to seek employment and failed to report job search efforts to the Monterey County Department of Child Support Services as the court ordered. A warrant was issued for Diaz' arrest in 2007 and remained outstanding until last December when he was arrested and eventually convicted for driving under the influence and possessing methamphetamine.

Diaz owes over \$199,992 in child support and interest. According to the child's mother, Diaz never provided so much as a loaf of bread and never called, wrote or visited his daughter since 2007. After hearing the evidence, Monterey County Superior Court Judge Albert Maldonado found Diaz in violation of probation and sentenced him to serve 185 days in county jail.