

# COUNTY OF MONTEREY

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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### Supervisor Askew's Statement on Child Victim

On August 31, 2026, the Monterey County Sheriff's Office issued a [press release](#) that characterizes a 14-year-old girl as a murder suspect while simultaneously alleging that she was raped and exploited by her father. The public outrage I have heard over this press release is not only understandable; it is appropriate.

People are angry because something feels fundamentally wrong here.

According to the Sheriff's press release, law enforcement believes that this child is currently being concealed by her father, who is wanted on multiple charges related to sexual abuse of a child, incest, child concealment, and child endangerment.

Let us be absolutely clear: A child cannot consent to sex with an adult. A child who becomes pregnant due to sexual abuse by an adult, who gives birth without medical care, and who is being concealed by the man suspected of sexually abusing her is a victim.

Our message to all victims must be consistent and unambiguous: **You deserve to be safe. You can ask for help. We will help you.**

I grieve deeply for the deceased infant. The loss of a newborn is heartbreaking and devastating. Law enforcement investigation of this death is ongoing with the goal of pursuing justice and holding offenders accountable.

Right now, the most urgent responsibility of every agency involved must be to **find this 14-year-old girl and ensure that she is safe**, to separate her from any potential abuser, and to ensure she receives immediate postpartum medical care, trauma-informed support, and protection.

I've spoken directly with County Chief Administrative Officer Sonia de la Rosa, Monterey County Sheriff Tina Nieto, District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni, and a

Department of Social Services official to share my concerns and urge that extreme care be taken in communication about this unthinkable situation. Children who are sexually abused should not have to wonder whether the adults and institutions they turn to will protect them.

Three days after the Sheriff's press release, District Attorney Pacioni released [a separate statement](#) clarifying that her office has not received a request for criminal charges against the 14-year-old child, has not received any related investigative reports from law enforcement, and has not made any charging decision regarding the child. It has only filed criminal charges against the 14-year-old's biological father, Sergio Galvez Perez, for allegedly assaulting his own child.

The Sheriff's Office has begun [sharing resources](#) for victims of sexual violence.

For anyone in our community who is experiencing sexual assault, abuse, or exploitation: **please tell someone** — a trusted adult, a teacher, a counselor, a medical provider, law enforcement, or a victim advocate. If you are in immediate danger, call 911. You do not have to figure this out by yourself.

**There are people whose job is to help you get safe. You can tell someone. You can ask for help. You deserve to be safe. We will help you.**

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Wendy Root Askew is the Monterey County Supervisor for District 4, representing South Salinas, Marina, Seaside, Sand City, Del Rey Oaks, and the unincorporated community of East Garrison. She currently serves as Chair of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors. Learn more at [wendyrootaskew.com](http://wendyrootaskew.com), subscribe to her newsletter at [wendyrootaskew.com/newsletter](http://wendyrootaskew.com/newsletter), and follow her on Facebook and Instagram @SupervisorAskew.