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    UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
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                          UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
                     FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
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    UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
                                         No. EDCR 21-0188(B)-JWH-1
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              Plaintiff.
                                         AMENDED PLEA AGREEMENT FOR
                                         DEFENDANT STEVE JACKSON RODRIGUEZ
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                   v.
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    STEVE JACKSON RODRIGUEZ.
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              Defendant.
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         1.
              This constitutes the plea agreement between STEVE JACKSON
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    RODRIGUEZ ("defendant") and the United States Attorney's Office for
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    the Central District of California (the "USAO") in the above-
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    captioned case. This agreement is limited to the USAO and cannot
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    bind any other federal, state, local, or foreign prosecuting,
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    enforcement, administrative, or regulatory authorities.
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                            DEFENDANT'S OBLIGATIONS
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         2.
              Defendant agrees to:
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                   At the earliest opportunity requested by the USAO and
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    provided by the Court, appear and plead guilty to Counts One, Four,
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    Five, Six, Seven, Eight, Nine, and Twelve of the Second Superseding
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Indictment in <u>United States v. Steve Jackson Rodriguez et al.</u>, CR 21-0188(B)-JWH, which charges defendant with:

- i. Obtaining Custody of a Minor for Purposes of Producing Child Pornography, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2251A(b);
- ii. Production of Child Pornography, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2251(a), (e); and
- iii. Enticement of a Minor to Engage in Criminal Sexual Activity, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2422(b).
 - b. Not contest facts agreed to in this agreement.
- c. Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained in this agreement.
- d. Appear for all court appearances, surrender as ordered for service of sentence, obey all conditions of any bond, and obey any other ongoing court order in this matter.
- e. Not commit any crime; however, offenses that would be excluded for sentencing purposes under United States Sentencing Guidelines ("U.S.S.G." or "Sentencing Guidelines") § 4A1.2(c) are not within the scope of this agreement.
- f. Be truthful at all times with the United States
 Probation and Pretrial Services Office and the Court.
- g. Pay the applicable special assessments at or before the time of sentencing unless defendant has demonstrated a lack of ability to pay such assessments.
- h. Defendant agrees that any and all criminal debt ordered by the Court will be due in full and immediately. The government is not precluded from pursuing, in excess of any payment schedule set by the Court, any and all available remedies by which to

satisfy defendant's payment of the full financial obligation, including referral to the Treasury Offset Program.

- i. Complete the Financial Disclosure Statement on a form provided by the USAO and, within 30 days of defendant's entry of a guilty plea, deliver the signed and dated statement, along with all of the documents requested therein, to the USAO by either email at usacac.FinLit@usdoj.gov (preferred) or mail to the USAO Financial Litigation Section at 300 North Los Angeles Street, Suite 7516, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Defendant agrees that defendant's ability to pay criminal debt shall be assessed based on the completed Financial Disclosure Statement and all required supporting documents, as well as other relevant information relating to ability to pay.
- j. Authorize the USAO to obtain a credit report upon returning a signed copy of this plea agreement.
- k. Consent to the USAO inspecting and copying all of defendant's financial documents and financial information held by the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office.
- 1. Agree to and not oppose the imposition of lifetime supervised release containing the following conditions of supervised release:
- i. that defendant does not obtain, retain, apply for, reapply for, or contest the revocation of, his nursing license or any license to provide medical care for patients.
- ii. Defendant shall register as a sex offender, and keep the registration current, in each jurisdiction where defendant resides, where defendant is an employee, and where defendant is a student, to the extent the registration procedures have been established in each jurisdiction. When registering for the first

time, defendant shall also register in the jurisdiction in which the conviction occurred if different from defendant's jurisdiction of residence. Defendant shall provide proof of registration to the Probation Officer within three days of defendant's placement on probation/release from imprisonment.

iii. Defendant shall participate in a psychological counseling and/or psychiatric treatment and/or a sex offender treatment program, which may include inpatient treatment upon order of the Court, as approved and directed by the Probation Officer.

Defendant shall abide by all rules, requirements, and conditions of such program, including submission to risk assessment evaluations and physiological testing, such as polygraph and Abel testing, but the defendant retains the right to invoke the Fifth Amendment. The Probation Officer shall disclose the presentence report and/or any previous mental health evaluations or reports to the treatment provider.

iv. As directed by the Probation Officer, defendant shall pay all or part of the costs of treating defendant's psychological/psychiatric disorder(s) to the aftercare contractor during the period of community supervision, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3672. Defendant shall provide payment and proof of payment as directed by the Probation Officer.

v. Defendant shall not view or possess any materials, including pictures, photographs, books, writings, drawings, videos, or video games, depicting and/or describing child pornography, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256(8), or sexually explicit conduct depicting minors, as defined at 18 U.S.C. § 2256(2). The defendant shall not possess or view any materials such as videos,

magazines, photographs, computer images or other matter that depicts "actual sexually explicit conduct" involving adults as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 2257(h)(1). This condition does not prohibit defendant from possessing materials solely because they are necessary to, and used for, a collateral attack, nor does it prohibit defendant from possessing materials prepared and used for the purposes of defendant's Court-mandated sex offender treatment, when defendant's treatment provider or the probation officer has approved of defendant's possession of the materials in advance.

vi. Defendant shall not associate or have verbal, written, telephonic, or electronic communication with any person under the age of 18, except: (a) in the presence of the parent or legal guardian of said minor; and (b) on the condition that defendant notifies said parent or legal guardian of defendant's conviction in the instant offense/prior offense. This provision does not encompass persons under the age of 18, such as waiters, cashiers, ticket vendors, etc., with whom defendant must interact in order to obtain ordinary and usual commercial services.

vii. Defendant shall not frequent, or loiter, within 100 feet of school yards, parks, public swimming pools, playgrounds, youth centers, video arcade facilities, or other places primarily used by persons under the age of 18.

viii. Defendant shall not affiliate with, own, control, volunteer or be employed in any capacity by a business or organization that causes defendant to regularly contact persons under the age of 18.

ix. Defendant shall not affiliate with, own, control, or be employed in any capacity by a business whose principal product

is the production or selling of materials depicting or describing "sexually explicit conduct," as defined at 18 U.S.C. § 2256(2).

x. Defendant shall not own, use or have access to the services of any commercial mail-receiving agency, nor shall defendant open or maintain a post office box, without the prior written approval of the Probation Officer.

xi. Defendant's employment shall be approved by the Probation Officer, and any change in employment must be pre-approved by the Probation Officer. Defendant shall submit the name and address of the proposed employer to the Probation Officer at least ten days prior to any scheduled change.

xii. Defendant shall not reside within direct view of school yards, parks, public swimming pools, playgrounds, youth centers, video arcade facilities, or other places primarily used by persons under the age of 18. Defendant's residence shall be approved by the Probation Officer, and any change in residence must be preapproved by the Probation Officer. Defendant shall submit the address of the proposed residence to the Probation Officer at least ten days prior to any scheduled move.

xiii. Defendant shall submit defendant's person, and any property, house, residence, vehicle, papers, computer, other electronic communication or data storage devices or media, and effects to search at any time, with or without warrant, by any law enforcement or Probation Officer with reasonable suspicion concerning a violation of a condition of probation/supervised release or unlawful conduct by defendant, and by any Probation Officer in the lawful discharge of the officer's supervision function.

xiv. The defendant shall possess and use only those computers and computer-related devices, screen usernames, passwords, email accounts, and internet service providers (ISPs), social media accounts, messaging applications and cloud storage accounts that have been disclosed to the Probation Officer upon commencement of supervision. Any changes or additions are to be disclosed to the Probation Officer prior to the first use. Computers and computer-related devices are those personal computers, internet appliances, electronic games, cellular telephones, digital storage media, and their peripheral equipment that can access, or can be modified to access, the internet, electronic bulletin boards, and other computers to view, obtain or transmit materials with depictions of sexually explicit conduct involving children, as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 2256(2).

xv. All computers, computer-related devices, and their peripheral equipment, used by defendant shall be subject to search and seizure. This shall not apply to items used at the employment's site that are maintained and monitored by the employer.

xvi. Defendant shall comply with the rules and regulations of the Computer Monitoring Program. Defendant shall pay the cost of the Computer Monitoring Program, in an amount not to exceed \$32 per month per device connected to the internet.

xvii. Not seek the discharge of any restitution obligation, in whole or in part, in any present or future bankruptcy proceeding.

THE USAO'S OBLIGATIONS

3. The USAO agrees to:

a. Not contest facts agreed to in this agreement.

- b. Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained in this agreement.
- c. At the time of sentencing, move to dismiss the remaining count of the indictment as against defendant. Defendant agrees, however, that at the time of sentencing the Court may consider any dismissed charge in determining the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range, the propriety and extent of any departure from that range, and the sentence to be imposed.
- d. At the time of sentencing, provided that defendant demonstrates an acceptance of responsibility for the offense up to and including the time of sentencing, recommend a two-level reduction in the applicable Sentencing Guidelines offense level, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1, and recommend and, if necessary, move for an additional one-level reduction if available under that section.

NATURE OF THE OFFENSE

- 4. Defendant understands that for defendant to be guilty of the crime charged in Counts Five and Eight, that is, Obtaining Custody of a Minor for Purposes of Producing Child Pornography, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2251A(b), the following must be true:
- a. Defendant purchased or otherwise obtained custody or control of a minor, or offered to purchase or otherwise obtain custody or control of a minor;
- b. Defendant knew that as a consequence of the purchase or obtaining custody, the minor would be portrayed in a visual depiction engaging in or assisting another person to engage in sexually explicit conduct; or defendant intended to promote the engaging in of sexually explicit conduct by the minor or the rendering of assistance by the minor to another person to engage in

sexually explicit conduct, for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of the conduct; and

c. Either:

- i. The minor or defendant traveled or was transported in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce; or
- ii. The offer was communicated or transported using any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce or in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce by any means including by computer; or
- iii. The conduct took place in any territory or possession of the United States.
- 5. Defendant understands that for defendant to be guilty of the crime charged in Counts One, Four, Six, Seven, and Nine, that is, Production of Child Pornography, in violation of 18 U.S.C.
- 15 | §§ 2251(a), (e), the following must be true:
 - a. At the time of the offense, the victim was under the age of 18 years old;
 - b. Defendant employed, used, persuaded, or coerced the victim to take part in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct; and

c. Either:

- i. Defendant knew or had reason to know that the visual depiction would be mailed or transported across state lines or in foreign commerce; or
- ii. The visual depiction was produced using materials that had been mailed, shipped, or transported across state lines or in foreign commerce; or

- iii. The visual depiction was mailed or actually transported across state lines or in foreign commerce; or The visual depiction affected interstate commerce.
- 6. Defendant understands that for defendant to be guilty of the crime charged in Count Twelve, that is, Enticement of a Minor to Engage in Criminal Sexual Activity, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2422(b) the following must be true:
- a. Defendant used a means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce to knowingly persuade, induce, entice, or coerce an individual to engage in criminal sexual conduct; and
- b. If the sexual activity had occurred, the defendant could have been charged with a criminal offense under the laws of California. In California, it is a criminal offense to engage in:
- i. Statutory Rape of a minor under the age of 16 when the perpetrator is over 21 years old, in violation of California Penal Code, Section 261.5(d); and
- ii. Lewd Acts with a Minor Child of 14 or 16 years old, in violation of California Penal Code, Section 288(c)(1); and
- c. The individual defendant persuaded, induced, enticed, or coerced was under the age of 18.

PENALTIES AND RESTITUTION

7. Defendant understands that the statutory maximum sentence that the Court can impose for each violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2251A(b) is: lifetime imprisonment; a lifetime period of supervised release; a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or gross loss resulting from the offense, whichever is greatest; and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.

- 8. Defendant understands that the statutory mandatory minimum sentence that the Court must impose for each violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2251A(b) is: 30 years' imprisonment; a five-year period of supervised release; and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.
- 9. Defendant understands that the statutory maximum sentence that the Court can impose for each violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2251(a), (e) is: 30 years' imprisonment; a lifetime period of supervised release; a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or gross loss resulting from the offense, whichever is greatest; and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.
- 10. Defendant understands that the statutory mandatory minimum sentence that the Court must impose for each violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2251(a), (e) is: 15 years' imprisonment; a five-year period of supervised release; and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.
- 11. Defendant understands that the statutory maximum sentence that the Court can impose for each violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2422(b) is: lifetime imprisonment; a lifetime period of supervised release; a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or gross loss resulting from the offense, whichever is greatest; and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.
- 12. Defendant understands that the statutory mandatory minimum sentence that the Court must impose for each violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2422(b) is: 10 years' imprisonment; a five-year period of supervised release; and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.

- 13. Defendant understands that the total maximum sentence for all offenses to which defendant is pleading guilty is: lifetime imprisonment; a lifetime period of supervised release; a fine of \$1,750,000 or twice the gross gain or gross loss resulting from the offenses, whichever is greatest; and eight mandatory special assessments of \$100.
- 14. Defendant understands that the total minimum sentence for all offenses to which defendant is pleading guilty is: 30 years imprisonment; a five-year period of supervised release; and mandatory special assessments of \$800.
- 15. Defendant also understands that, pursuant to the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, the Court shall impose an additional \$5,000 special assessment per count of conviction in this case, if the Court concludes that defendant is a non-indigent person, to be paid after defendant's other financial obligations have been satisfied.
- 16. Defendant understands that, pursuant to the Amy, Vicky, and Andy Child Pornography Victim Assistance Act of 2018 found in 18 U.S.C. § 2259A, the Court may impose an additional special assessment of up to \$50,000 per count of conviction for Production of Child Pornography and Obtaining Custody of a Minor for Purposes of Producing Child Pornography.
- 17. Defendant understands that supervised release is a period of time following imprisonment during which defendant will be subject to various restrictions and requirements. Defendant understands that if defendant violates one or more of the conditions of any supervised release imposed, defendant may be returned to prison for all or part

of the term of supervised release authorized by statute for the offense that resulted in the term of supervised release.

- 18. Defendant understands that as a condition of supervised release, under Title 18, United States Code, Section 3583(d), defendant will be required to register as a sex offender. Defendant understands that independent of supervised release, he will be subject to federal and state registration requirements, for a possible maximum term of registration up to and including life. Defendant further understands that, under Title 18, United States Code, Section 4042(c), notice will be provided to certain law enforcement agencies upon his release from confinement following conviction
- Defendant understands that defendant will be required to 19. pay full restitution to the victim(s) of the offense to which defendant is pleading guilty. Defendant agrees that, in return for the USAO's compliance with its obligations under this agreement, the Court may order restitution to persons other than the victim(s) of the offense to which defendant is pleading guilty and in amounts greater than those alleged in the count to which defendant is pleading guilty. In particular, defendant agrees that the Court may order restitution to any victim of any of the following for any losses suffered by that victim as a result: (a) any relevant conduct, as defined in U.S.S.G. § 181.3, in connection with the offense to which defendant is pleading quilty; and (b) any count dismissed and charges not prosecuted pursuant to this agreement as well as all relevant conduct, as defined in U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3, in connection with those charges and count.

- 20. Defendant understands that, by pleading guilty, defendant may be giving up valuable government benefits and valuable civic rights, such as the right to vote, the right to possess a firearm, the right to hold office, and the right to serve on a jury. Defendant understands that he is pleading guilty to a felony and that it is a federal crime for a convicted felon to possess a firearm or ammunition. Defendant understands that the conviction in this case may also subject defendant to various other collateral consequences, including but not limited to revocation of probation, parole, or supervised release in another case and suspension or revocation of a professional license. Defendant understands that unanticipated collateral consequences will not serve as grounds to withdraw defendant's guilty plea.
- 21. Defendant and his counsel have discussed the fact that, and defendant understands that, if defendant is not a United States citizen, the convictions in this case makes it practically inevitable and a virtual certainty that defendant will be removed or deported from the United States. Defendant may also be denied United States citizenship and admission to the United States in the future. Defendant understands that while there may be arguments that defendant can raise in immigration proceedings to avoid or delay removal, removal is presumptively mandatory and a virtual certainty in this case. Defendant further understands that removal and immigration consequences are the subject of a separate proceeding and that no one, including his attorney or the Court, can predict to an absolute certainty the effect of his convictions on his immigration status. Defendant nevertheless affirms that he wants to plead guilty

regardless of any immigration consequences that his pleas may entail, even if the consequence is automatic removal from the United States.

FACTUAL BASIS

- 22. Defendant admits that defendant is, in fact, guilty of the offenses to which defendant is agreeing to plead guilty. Defendant and the USAO agree to the statement of facts provided below and agree that this statement of facts is sufficient to support a plea of guilty to the charges described in this agreement but is not meant to be a complete recitation of all facts relevant to the underlying criminal conduct or all facts known to either party that relate to that conduct.
 - A. Defendant's Sexual Abuse of Minor Victims 1, 2, and 4 (Counts One and Four Through Nine)

From at least January 10, 2016, through January 27, 2018, defendant produced child pornography of his sexual conduct with three mentally and physically disabled children in his custody and care. From 2014 to 2016, in March 2017, and from December 2017 to January 2018, defendant was employed as a Certified Nursing Assistant at a group home for disabled children and adults in Chino, California (the "Group Home"), which is within the Central District of California.

Typically, defendant's role at the Group Home was to be the sole night-time care giver for approximately six mentally and physically disabled minor residents in the minor resident building. These disabled minor residents in his care included Minor Victim 1, Minor Victim 2, and Minor Victim 4. Defendant typically worked the nocturnal shift (midnight to 6:00 a.m.), at defendant's request. Typically, defendant worked this shift alone. The nocturnal shift

was typically staffed with only one person, whereas the daytime shifts tended to have more employees present.

Among defendant's duties, defendant was entrusted with the safety, wellbeing, and medical care for Minor Victim 1, Minor Victim 2, and Minor Victim 4.

While employed at the Group Home defendant engaged in sexual conduct with Minor Victim 1, Minor Victim 2, and Minor Victim 4 and filmed some of this sexual conduct. Defendant also distributed files depicting his sexual abuse of Minor Victim 1 and discussed his sexual interest in children with numerous other individuals he met on the internet. Defendant also distributed files depicting his sexual abuse of Minor Victim 1 to local individuals he knew offline, including co-defendant Registered Nurse CYR BANGUGUILAN ("BANGUGUILAN") and co-defendant MIGUEL BOCARDO ("BOCARDO") on Telegram.

Defendant and BANGUGUILAN knew each other socially from work. At some point defendant and BANGUGUILAN began discussing defendant's sexual interest in children on Telegram. On one occasion,
BANGUGUILAN told defendant "Nice. I saw the girl with your cock."

Defendant responded "Ya she cute little thing. Have lots."

Defendant and BANGUGUILAN were discussing files defendant distributed to BANGUGUILAN depicting defendant sexually abusing Minor Victim 1.

Defendant told BANGUGUILAN that he had access to children that he sexually abused. Defendant sent multiple files to BANGUGUILAN depicting child pornography of Minor Victim 1.

Defendant distributed a file to BANGUGUILAN depicting defendant inserting his penis into Minor Victim's 1's anus, with the message "I put it in her butt" followed by two water drop emojis and a fire

emoji. This file appears to match one of the files defendant produced on January 27, 2018. In total, defendant sent BANGUGUILAN approximately 10-20 videos of defendant sexually abusing minor victims, including Minor Victim 1.

Defendant also sent sexual abuse images to his local friend BOCARDO. On Telegram, defendant told BOCARDO that he routinely engaged in sexual conduct with children at the Group Home he worked at, invited BOCARDO to engage in sexual acts with Minor Victim 1, sent BOCARDO files depicting defendant's sexual acts with Minor Victim 1, and admitted that he would sometimes bribe the children at the Group Home with candy bars to facilitate his sexual abuse.

Defendant's most recent sexual chat about sexual activity with children with both BOCARDO and BANGUGUILAN occurred on August 24, 2021. Defendant was arrested in this case on August 25, 2021.

1. Minor Victim 1

Minor Victim 1 was placed in the Group Home to be cared for since at least 2015. According to her medical records, of which defendant had access, Minor Victim 1 had severe mental disabilities and required the use of a colostomy bag. Minor Victim 1 was largely non-verbal at the time defendant started abusing her, and to this day has very limited verbal abilities.

When the first documented abuse by defendant of Minor Victim 1 in January 2016 occurred, Minor Victim 1 was approximately 6 years old. The latest document abuse of Minor Victim 1 by defendant occurred in January 2018, when she was approximately 8 years old.

Defendant knew Minor Victim 1 was between 6 and 8 years old from January 2016 to January 2018 from both his observation at the time of

the abuse and from her medical records, of which he had access to and looked at for his work.

2. Minor Victim 2

Minor Victim 2 was placed in the Group Home in at least 2013.

Minor Victim 2 has been diagnosed with severe mental disabilities developed as a result of major trauma suffered when she was approximately 3 years old. Minor Victim 2 requires the use of a feeding tube and a wheelchair. Minor Victim 2 is largely non-verbal. At the time defendant created the child pornography of Minor Victim 2, Minor Victim 2 was approximately 12 years old. Defendant knew Minor Victim 2 was approximately 12 years old in January 2018 both from his observation at the time of the abuse and from her medical records which included her date of birth, of which he had access to and looked at for his work.

3. Minor Victim 4

Minor Victim 4 was admitted to the Group Home in at least 2008. Minor Victim 4 has severe mental disabilities and is non-verbal. Minor Victim 4 is also deaf and blind. Minor Victim 4 is confined to a wheelchair, and typically wears a diaper. In March 2017, Minor Victim 4 was 17 years old. Defendant knew that Minor Victim 4 was not yet 18 years old because he reviewed her medical records which included her date of birth, of which he had access to and looked at for work.

a. January 10, 2016

On January 10, 2016 (Count 1), defendant created child pornography of Minor Victim 1's vagina with defendant's penis positioned approximately 2 inches from her vagina. Minor Victim 1's colostomy bag and urination pad were visible in the image. This file

is titled: "663c5bd871bc97cff0fe0be455414f6d1.0-1.jpg." Defendant admits that this file was child pornography which was produced using materials that had been transported in interstate or foreign commerce, and this visual depiction affected interstate and foreign commerce. Defendant admits that he produced this file using a Samsung Galaxy S5 cellular phone and transferred it to his LG G6 cellular phone. Samsung and LG are Korean company for which components for their Samsung Galaxy S5 and LG G6 cellular phones and the cellular phones themselves are materials transported in foreign commerce.

b. March 15, 2017

On March 15, 2017 (Count 4), defendant produced at least two videos of child pornography depicting defendant anally penetrating Minor Victim 4 with his penis while Minor Victim 4 is face down on the tile floor of the bathroom at the Group Home. These files are titled "20170315_014555.mp4" and "20170315_014749.mp4." In one of the videos RODRIGUEZ identifies Minor Victim 4 by name and identifies that he is having anal sex with Minor Victim 4. Defendant uploaded these files onto his Google Cloud account via the internet, which means the files moved in and affected interstate and foreign commerce. Defendant also admits that these visual depictions affected interstate and foreign commerce.

c. December 2017 to January 2018

Except for a few days in March 2017, defendant largely did not work at the Group Home on any regular basis from 2016 to until December 2017.

In December 2017, defendant communicated by cellular telephone, an instrumentality of interstate commerce, with the administrator of

the Group Home. Defendant's cellphone provider was Sprint, a telecommunication provider that operated in interstate commerce.

In these cellular telephone communications with the Group Home provider, defendant asked to return to work at the Group Home to work overnight shifts at the Group Home. One of defendant's primary and predominate purposes in re-establishing this employment was to gain custody/control over the minors at the Group Home to create child pornography depicting Minor Victim 1 and Minor Victim 2 engaged in sexual acts with defendant. Furthermore, these communications ultimately resulted in defendant regaining custody and control over Minor Victim 1 and 2 for the primary purpose of producing child pornography depicting them both on January 1.

Defendant engaged in further cellular telephone communications with the Group Home provider to obtain custody/control over the minors at the Group Home on January 27, 2018, for which one of defendant's primary and predominate purposes was to producing child pornography of Minor Victim 1. Defendant ultimately was successful in regaining custody/control over Minor Victim 1 on January 27, 2018 and was able to produce child pornography depicting Minor Victim 1.

On January 1, 2018 (Counts 5 and 6), defendant produced over a dozen child pornography video files and images depicting his sexual assault of Minor Victim 1 and Minor Victim 2 between approximately 12:52 a.m. to 04:11 a.m. Defendant's child pornography on this date of Minor Victim 1 included but is not limited to the following files: a video file depicting defendant pulling back Minor Victim 1's onesie and exposing her vagina and anus titled "20180101_005258.mp4;" a video file depicting defendant forcing Minor Victim 1's head down to his genital area to engage in oral copulation of defendant's penis

while defendant said "suck on it," titled "20180101_005747.mp4;" a video file depicting defendant orally copulating Minor Victim 1, titled "20180101_010134.mp4;" and a video file which depicted defendant rubbing the inside folds of Minor Victim 1's vagina with the head of his penis, titled "20180101_041109.mp4." Defendant admits that all of these visual depictions affected interstate and foreign commerce.

Defendant uploaded the "20180101_005747.mp4" and "20180101_010134.mp4" files onto his Google Cloud account via the internet, which means the files moved in and affected interstate and foreign commerce.

On January 1, 2018 (Counts 5 and 7) defendant also filmed his abuse of Minor Victim 2. In one video, defendant filmed himself penetrating Minor Victim 2 with his penis. This file was titled, "20180101 014805.mp4."

On January 27, 2018 (Count 9), defendant produced at least four videos of child pornography depicting defendant sexually abusing Minor Victim 1. Defendant produced the following videos that day: two videos of defendant performing oral copulation on Minor Victim 1 titled "20180127_011432.mp4," and "20 180127_011654.mp4;" a video of defendant attempting to touch his penis to Minor Victim 1's anus titled "20180127_011802.mp4;" and a video of defendant touching his penis to Minor Victim 1's anus titled "20180127_011903.mp4."

On January 27, 2018, defendant's shift was to work from 12 a.m. to 6 a.m. when his relief was scheduled to arrive. Defendant arrived shortly after 12 a.m., produced child pornography, then before 2:00 a.m. defendant abandoned the Group Home residents without care,

including Minor Victim 1. Defendant left within an hour of the completion of his production of child pornography of Minor Victim 1.

Defendant admits that the files titled: "20180101_005258.mp4,"
"20180101_041109.mp4," "20180101_014805.mp4," "20180127_011432.mp4,"
"20180127_011654.mp4," "20180127_011802.mp4," and
"20180127_011903.mp4" were files of child pornography produced using materials that had been transported in interstate or foreign commerce, and these visual depiction affected interstate and foreign commerce. Defendant admits that he produced these files using an LG G6 cellular phone.

B. Defendant's Sexual Abuse of Minor Victim 3 (Count 12)

From an unknown date to at least June 24, 2020, defendant used the internet, a cellular telephone, and internet chat applications on a cellular telephone, all of which are facilities and means of interstate and foreign commerce, to persuade, entice, and induce Minor Victim 3 into engaging in criminal sexual acts with defendant. At the time of these communications, defendant knew that Minor Victim 3 was under the age of 18 and believed that she was approximately 15 years old.

Defendant knew that he was persuading, enticing, and inducing Minor Victim 3 into engaging in Statutory Rape of a Minor Under the age of 16 with a Perpetrator Over the Age of 21, and Lewd Acts with a Minor Child of 14 or 15 years old, in violation of California law.

Specifically, on November 25, 2019, defendant, using an internet messaging application on his phone, told Minor Victim 3 he wanted to have sex with her without a condom and that he would "pull out" meaning not ejaculate inside her. Minor Victim 3 was 15 at the time of this chat.

On June 24, 2020, defendant, using an internet messaging application on his phone called Text Free, told Minor Victim 3 that he would have sex with Minor Victim 3 on Friday.

Defendant also made multiple videos later found by law enforcement of defendant having sex with Minor Victim 3 when she was approximately 15 years old. On December 8, 2019, defendant filmed defendant having intercourse with Minor Victim 3 in defendant's car. On May 1, 2020, defendant filmed a video of himself orally copulating Minor Victim 3 and having vaginal intercourse with Minor Victim 3 in a hotel room.

SENTENCING FACTORS

- 23. Defendant understands that in determining defendant's sentence the Court is required to calculate the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range and to consider that range, possible departures under the Sentencing Guidelines, and the other sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). Defendant understands that the Sentencing Guidelines are advisory only, that defendant cannot have any expectation of receiving a sentence within the calculated Sentencing Guidelines range, and that after considering the Sentencing Guidelines and the other § 3553(a) factors, the Court will be free to exercise its discretion to impose any sentence it finds appropriate between the mandatory minimum and up to the maximum set by statute for the crime of conviction.
- 24. Defendant and the USAO agree to the following applicable Sentencing Guidelines factors:

Production Of Child Pornography

Count 1

Base Offense Level: 32 U.S.S.G. § 2G2.1(a)

```
1
         Specific Offense Characteristics:
 2
              Custody/supervisory control (Minor Victim 1):
 3
                                  +2
                                       U.S.S.G. \S 2G2.1(b)(5)
 4
              Minor Under Twelve: +4
                                       U.S.S.G. § 2G2.1(b)(1)(A)
 5
         Victim Related Adjustments:
 6
              Vulnerable Victim: +2
                                       U.S.S.G. § 3A1.1(b)(1)
 7
         Defendant Role in Offense:
 8
              Abuse of Position of Trust:
 9
                                  +2
                                       U.S.S.G. § 3B1.3
10
         Total Offense Level:
                                  42
11
    Count 4
12
13
         Base Offense Level: 32 U.S.S.G. § 2G2.1(a)
14
         Specific Offense Characteristics:
15
              Custody/supervisory control (Minor Victim 4):
16
                                  +2
                                       U.S.S.G. § 2G2.1(b)(5)
17
              Sexual Act/Contact: +2
                                       U.S.S.G. § 2G2.1(b)(2)(A)
18
              Sadistic Conduct: +4
                                       U.S.S.G. § 2G2.1(b)(4)(A)
19
         Victim Related Adjustments:
20
              Vulnerable Victim: +2 U.S.S.G. § 3A1.1(b)(1)
21
         Defendant Role in Offense:
22
              Abuse of Position of Trust:
23
                                  +2
                                       U.S.S.G. § 3B1.3
24
         Total Offense Level:
                                  44
25
26
    Count 6
27
         Base Offense Level:
                                  32 U.S.S.G. § 2G2.1(a)
28
         Specific Offense Characteristics:
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Custody/supervisory control (Minor Victim 1):
1
2
                                  +2
                                       U.S.S.G. § 2G2.1(b)(5)
              Minor Under Twelve: +4
                                       U.S.S.G. § 2G2.1(b)(1)(A)
 3
 4
              Sexual Contact:
                                  +2
                                       U.S.S.G. § 2G2.1(b)(2)(A)
 5
         Victim Related Adjustments:
 6
              Vulnerable Victim: +2
                                       U.S.S.G. § 3A1.1(b)(1)
 7
              Restrained Victim: +2
                                       U.S.S.G. § 3A1.3
 8
         Defendant Role in Offense:
 9
              Abuse of Position of Trust:
10
                                  +2
                                       U.S.S.G. § 3B1.3
         Total Offense Level:
11
                                  46
12
    Count 7
13
14
         Base Offense Level:
                                  32
                                       U.S.S.G. § 2G2.1(a)
15
         Specific Offense Characteristics:
16
              Custody/supervisory control (Minor Victim 2):
17
                                  +2
                                       U.S.S.G. § 2G2.1(b)(5)
18
            . Minor Twelve to Sixteen:
19
                                  +2
                                       U.S.S.G. § 2G2.1(b)(1)(B)
20
              Sexual Contact:
                                  +2
                                       U.S.S.G. $2G2.1(b)(2)(A)
21
         Victim Related Adjustments:
22
              Vulnerable Victim: +2
                                       U.S.S.G. § 3A1.1(b)(1)
23
         Defendant Role in Offense:
24
              Abuse of Position of Trust:
25
                                  +2
                                       U.S.S.G. § 3B1.3
26
         Total Offense Level:
                                  42
27
28
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Count 9
1
        Base Offense Level:
                                  32 U.S.S.G. § 2G2.1(a)
2
         Specific Offense Characteristics:
3
              Custody/supervisory control (Minor Victim 1):
4
5
                                  +2
                                       U.S.S.G. \S 2G2.1(b)(5)
              Distribution:
                                  +2
                                       U.S.S.G. \S 2G2.1(b)(3)
6
7
              Minor Under 12:
                                       U.S.S.G. § 2G2.1(b)(1)(A)
                                  +4
8
              Sexual Contact:
                                  +2
                                       U.S.S.G. § 2G2.1(b)(2)(A)
9
              Sadistic Conduct: +4
                                       U.S.S.G. \S 2G2.1(b)(4)(A)
10
         Victim Related Adjustments:
              Vulnerable Victim: +2
                                       U.S.S.G. § 3A1.1(b)(1)
11
         Defendant Role in Offense:
12
13
              Abuse of Position of Trust:
14
                                       U.S.S.G. § 3B1.3
                                  +2
15
         Total Offense Level:
                                  50
16
17
    Obtaining Custody of Child to Produce Child Pornography
18
    Count 5
19
         Base Offense Level:
                                  38
                                       U.S.S.G. § 2G2.3(a)
20
         Victim Related Adjustments:
21
              Vulnerable Victim: +2
                                     U.S.S.G. § 3A1.1(b)(1)
22
         Defendant Role in Offense:
23
              Abuse of Position of Trust:
24
                                  +2
                                       U.S.S.G. § 3B1.3
25
         Total Offense Level:
                                  42
26
27
    Count 8
28
         Base Offense Level:
                                  38
                                       U.S.S.G. § 2G2.3(a)
```

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Victim Related Adjustments:
1
              Vulnerable Victim: +2 U.S.S.G. § 3A1.1(b)(1)
2
         Defendant Role in Offense:
 3
              Abuse of Position of Trust:
 4
 5
                                   +2
                                        U.S.S.G. § 3B1.3
         Total Offense Level:
                                   42
 6
 7
 8
    Enticement
    Count 12
 9
10
         Base Offense Level:
                                   28
                                        U.S.S.G. \S 2G1.3(a)(3)
         Specific Offense Characteristics:
11
12
              Use of Computer:
                                   +2
                                        U.S.S.G. § 2G1.3(b)(3)(A)
13
              Sex Act/Contact:
                                   +2
                                        U.S.S.G. \S 2G1.3(b)(4)(A)
14
         Total Offense Level:
                                   32
15
         25. Defendant and the USAO reserve the right to argue that
16
    additional specific offense characteristics, adjustments, and
17
    departures under the Sentencing Guidelines are appropriate.
18
              Defendant understands that there is no agreement as to
    defendant's criminal history or criminal history category.
19
20
              Defendant and the USAO reserve the right to argue for a
21
    sentence outside the sentencing range established by the Sentencing
    Guidelines based on the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(1),
22
23
    (a) (2), (a) (3), (a) (6), and (a) (7).
24
                       WAIVER OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS
25
              Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, defendant
26
    gives up the following rights:
27
              a.
                   The right to persist in a plea of not quilty.
28
              b.
                   The right to a speedy and public trial by jury.
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c. The right to be represented by counsel -- and if necessary have the Court appoint counsel -- at trial. Defendant understands, however, that, defendant retains the right to be represented by counsel -- and if necessary have the Court appoint counsel -- at every other stage of the proceeding.

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- d. The right to be presumed innocent and to have the burden of proof placed on the government to prove defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.
- e. The right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against defendant.
- f. The right to testify and to present evidence in opposition to the charges, including the right to compel the attendance of witnesses to testify.
- g. The right not to be compelled to testify, and, if defendant chose not to testify or present evidence, to have that choice not be used against defendant.
- h. Any and all rights to pursue any affirmative defenses, Fourth Amendment or Fifth Amendment claims, and other pretrial motions that have been filed or could be filed.

WAIVER OF APPEAL OF CONVICTION

29. Defendant understands that, with the exception of an appeal based on a claim that defendant's guilty plea was involuntary, by pleading guilty defendant is waiving and giving up any right to appeal defendant's convictions on the offenses to which defendant is pleading guilty. Defendant understands that this waiver includes, but is not limited to, arguments that the statutes to which defendant is pleading guilty are unconstitutional, and any and all claims that

the statement of facts provided herein is insufficient to support defendant's plea of guilty.

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WAIVER OF APPEAL AND COLLATERAL ATTACK

- Defendant gives up the right to appeal all of the 30. following: (a) the procedures and calculations used to determine and impose any portion of the sentence; (b) the term of imprisonment imposed by the Court, including, to the extent permitted by law, the constitutionality or legality of defendant's sentence, provided it is within the statutory maximum; (c) the fine imposed by the Court, provided it is within the statutory maximum; (d) the amount and terms of any restitution order; (e) the term of probation or supervised release imposed by the Court, provided it is within the statutory maximum; and (f) any of the following conditions of probation or supervised release imposed by the Court: the conditions set forth in Second Amended General Order 20-04 of this Court; the drug testing conditions mandated by 18 U.S.C. §§ 3563(a)(5) and 3583(d); the alcohol and drug use conditions authorized by 18 U.S.C. § 3563(b) (7); and and any conditions of probation or supervised release agreed to by defendant in paragraph 2.1 above.
- 31. Defendant also gives up any right to bring a postconviction collateral attack on the convictions or sentence,
 including any order of restitution, except a post-conviction
 collateral attack based on a claim of ineffective assistance of
 counsel, a claim of newly discovered evidence, or an explicitly
 retroactive change in the applicable Sentencing Guidelines,
 sentencing statutes, or statutes of conviction. Defendant
 understands that this waiver includes, but is not limited to,
 arguments that the statutes to which defendant is pleading guilty are

unconstitutional, and any and all claims that the statement of facts provided herein is insufficient to support defendant's pleas of guilty.

32. This agreement does not affect in any way the right of the USAO to appeal the sentence imposed by the Court.

RESULT OF WITHDRAWAL OF GUILTY PLEA

33. Defendant agrees that if, after entering a guilty plea pursuant to this agreement, defendant seeks to withdraw and succeeds in withdrawing defendant's guilty plea on any basis other than a claim and finding that entry into this plea agreement was involuntary, then (a) the USAO will be relieved of all of its obligations under this agreement; and (b) should the USAO choose to pursue any charge that was either dismissed or not filed as a result of this agreement, then (i) any applicable statute of limitations will be tolled between the date of defendant's signing of this agreement and the filing commencing any such action; and (ii) defendant waives and gives up all defenses based on the statute of limitations, any claim of pre-indictment delay, or any speedy trial claim with respect to any such action, except to the extent that such defenses existed as of the date of defendant's signing this agreement.

RESULT OF VACATUR, REVERSAL OR SET-ASIDE

34. Defendant agrees that if any count of conviction is vacated, reversed, or set aside, the USAO may: (a) ask the Court to resentence defendant on any remaining counts of conviction, with both the USAO and defendant being released from any stipulations regarding sentencing contained in this agreement, (b) ask the Court to void the entire plea agreement and vacate defendant's guilty pleas on any

remaining counts of conviction, with both the USAO and defendant being released from all their obligations under this agreement, or (c) leave defendant's remaining convictions, sentence, and plea agreement intact. Defendant agrees that the choice among these three options rests in the exclusive discretion of the USAO.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF AGREEMENT

35. This agreement is effective upon signature and execution of all required certifications by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an Assistant United States Attorney.

BREACH OF AGREEMENT

- 36. Defendant agrees that if defendant, at any time after the signature of this agreement and execution of all required certifications by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an Assistant United States Attorney, knowingly violates or fails to perform any of defendant's obligations under this agreement ("a breach"), the USAO may declare this agreement breached. All of defendant's obligations are material, a single breach of this agreement is sufficient for the USAO to declare a breach, and defendant shall not be deemed to have cured a breach without the express agreement of the USAO in writing. If the USAO declares this agreement breached, and the Court finds such a breach to have occurred, then: (a) if defendant has previously entered a guilty plea pursuant to this agreement, defendant will not be able to withdraw the guilty pleas, and (b) the USAO will be relieved of all its obligations under this agreement.
- 37. Following the Court's finding of a knowing breach of this agreement by defendant, should the USAO choose to pursue any charge that was either dismissed or not filed as a result of this agreement, then:

- a. Defendant agrees that any applicable statute of limitations is tolled between the date of defendant's signing of this agreement and the filing commencing any such action.
- b. Defendant waives and gives up all defenses based on the statute of limitations, any claim of pre-indictment delay, or any speedy trial claim with respect to any such action, except to the extent that such defenses existed as of the date of defendant's signing this agreement.
- c. Defendant agrees that: (i) any statements made by defendant, under oath, at the guilty plea hearing (if such a hearing occurred prior to the breach); (ii) the agreed to factual basis statement in this agreement; and (iii) any evidence derived from such statements, shall be admissible against defendant in any such action against defendant, and defendant waives and gives up any claim under the United States Constitution, any statute, Rule 410 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, or any other federal rule, that the statements or any evidence derived from the statements should be suppressed or are inadmissible.

COURT AND UNITED STATES PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE NOT PARTIES

- 38. Defendant understands that the Court and the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office are not parties to this agreement and need not accept any of the USAO's sentencing recommendations or the parties' agreements to facts or sentencing factors.
- 39. Defendant understands that both defendant and the USAO are free to: (a) supplement the facts by supplying relevant information

26.

to the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office and the Court, (b) correct any and all factual misstatements relating to the Court's Sentencing Guidelines calculations and determination of sentence, and (c) argue on appeal and collateral review that the Court's Sentencing Guidelines calculations and the sentence it chooses to impose are not error. While this paragraph permits both the USAO and defendant to submit full and complete factual information to the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office and the Court, even if that factual information may be viewed as inconsistent with the facts agreed to in this agreement, this paragraph does not affect defendant's and the USAO's obligations not to contest the facts agreed to in this agreement.

40. Defendant understands that even if the Court ignores any sentencing recommendation, finds facts or reaches conclusions different from those agreed to, and/or imposes any sentence up to the maximum established by statute, defendant cannot, for that reason, withdraw defendant's guilty plea, and defendant will remain bound to fulfill all defendant's obligations under this agreement. Defendant understands that no one -- not the prosecutor, defendant's attorney, or the Court -- can make a binding prediction or promise regarding the sentence defendant will receive, except that it will be between the statutory mandatory minimum and the statutory maximum.

NO ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS

41. Defendant understands that, except as set forth herein, there are no promises, understandings, or agreements between the USAO and defendant or defendant's attorney, and that no additional promise, understanding, or agreement may be entered into unless in a writing signed by all parties or on the record in court.

PLEA AGREEMENT PART OF THE GUILTY PLEA HEARING

42. The parties agree that this agreement will be considered part of the record of defendant's guilty plea hearing as if the entire agreement had been read into the record of the proceeding.

AGREED AND ACCEPTED

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7 UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF 8 CALIFORNIA

STEPHANIE CHRISTENSEN
Acting United States Attorney

11 SCOTT M. LARA
12 Assistant Whited States Attorney
13 STEVE JACKSON RODRIGUEZ
14 Defendant

10/7/22

Date

Date

JARED OLEN GEORGE KARL ROSONS POCK Date

Attorney for Defendant STEVE

JACKSON RODRIGUEZ

CERTIFICATION OF DEFENDANT

I have read this agreement in its entirety. I have had enough time to review and consider this agreement, and I have carefully and thoroughly discussed every part of it with my attorney. I understand the terms of this agreement, and I voluntarily agree to those terms. I have discussed the evidence with my attorney, and my attorney has advised me of my rights, of possible pretrial motions that might be filed, of possible defenses that might be asserted either prior to or at trial, of the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), of relevant Sentencing Guidelines provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement. No promises, inducements, or

representations of any kind have been made to me other than those contained in this agreement. No one has threatened or forced me in any way to enter into this agreement. I am satisfied with the representation of my attorney in this matter, and I am pleading quilty because I am quilty of the charge and wish to take advantage of the promises set forth in this agreement, and not for any other

reason.

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STEVE JACKSON

Defendant

CERTIFICATION OF DEFENDANT'S ATTORNEY

I am STEVE JACKSON RODRIGUEZ's attorney. I have carefully and thoroughly discussed every part of this agreement with my client. Further, I have fully advised my client of his rights, of possible pretrial motions that might be filed, of possible defenses that might be asserted either prior to or at trial, of the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), of relevant Sentencing Guidelines provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement. To my knowledge: no promises, inducements, or representations of any kind have been made to my client other than those contained in this agreement; no one has threatened or forced my client in any way to enter into this agreement; my client's decision to enter into this agreement is an informed and voluntary one; and the factual basis set forth in this agreement is sufficient to support my client's entry of a guilty plea pynsuant to this agreement.

DOLEN GEORGE KARL ROSENSTOCK Attorney for Defendant

9 28 22 Date

STEVE JACKSON RODRIGUEZ