

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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CONTACT: Lieutenant Carmelin Rivera at [crivera@pd.sandiego.gov](mailto:crivera@pd.sandiego.gov)

**Arrest Made in a Sexual Assault of a Minor in Paradise Hills  
Investigators Seek Witnesses and Possibly More Victims**

**San Diego** – A 27-year-old man is in custody for a sexual assault in Paradise Hills.

On November 6, 2021, a 15-year-old girl attended a baby shower at the residence of a member of her church. At the time, the girl was a member of a church choir group at the Victory Outreach Church campus located at 1665 Precision Park Lane in San Ysidro. The choir group was composed of adults and minors. Her 25-year-old church choir group leader drove her to the baby shower. After the event, instead of driving the girl back to her residence, he drove her to the 1800 block of Reo Drive in the City of San Diego where he parked the car. By this time, it was in the evening. The man sexually assaulted the girl inside the car. Afterwards, he drove the girl home.

Due to a confluence of factors, the girl did not report the assault to the San Diego Police Department until March 1, 2023. The SDPD Sex Crimes Unit immediately began to investigate the incident. In the course of their investigation, detectives identified the suspect as Rafael Valentin Magana, with aliases of Rafael Burciaga and Rafael Magana-Burciaga. He is now 27 years old.

On August 24, 2023, around 6:06 p.m., SDPD officers arrested Magana in the 2100 block of East Plaza Boulevard in National City for an active felony arrest warrant related to this case charging him with oral copulation with a person under 16 years old and for lewd and lascivious acts with a 15-year-old child. Magana was booked into San Diego County Jail.

The investigation is active and ongoing. Anyone with information regarding this incident or believes they know or are the victim of a similar assault should call the San Diego Police Department Sex Crimes Unit at (619) 531-2210 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

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