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DISTRICT ATTORNEY JEFFREY S. ROSELL ANNOUNCES CONSUMER PROTECTION SUIT OVER DANGEROUS LEVELS OF LEAD IN TODDLER FORMULA

The Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office, as part of the California Food, Drug and Medical Device Task Force, joined with the California Attorney General's Office to file suit against Perrigo Company and two of its subsidiaries (Perrigo), a business that sells toddler formula with dangerously elevated lead levels in their products. Testing revealed that these formulas exceed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration provisional daily intake levels for children under six and caused lead exposures that exceeded the Proposition 65 warning threshold.

"Lead is a dangerous neurotoxin that may cause severe harm to children. The Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office is committed to protecting the health and safety of Santa Cruz County residents, and marketing adulterated products for children consumption is unacceptable," said District Attorney Jeffrey Rosell.

The lawsuit alleges that Perrigo's Toddler Formula products are adulterated under California and Federal standards and the sale of the products violated Proposition 65 and California's Unfair Competition Law by manufacturing products with lead levels that exceeded the Proposition 65 warning threshold. Today's settlement requires Perrigo to significantly reduce the levels of lead in its products, with substantial injunctive terms, including:

- The settlement sets a target lead level for all Perrigo infant and toddler formula products sold in California of 4 ppb, with a maximum lead level of 5-7 ppb, depending on the product.
- To attain the target level, Perrigo must put ingredient sourcing and control processes in place. Perrigo must also consult with an independent food processing auditor, set internal food quality auditing practices, and conduct compliance testing to ensure that its products do not exceed the maximum lead levels.
- If a product lot exceeds the maximum lead levels and is not found to be an outlier, Perrigo may not sell that lot in California. It must also investigate the cause of the exceedance, and work with the auditor to keep the level under the maximum.

The lawsuit was filed by Santa Cruz District Attorney, the District Attorneys of Alameda, Marin, Monterey, Napa, Santa Clara, Shasta, Solano, Sonoma, and Orange counties, and the Attorney General.