

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: JUSTICE SERVED AS STEPFATHER GETS LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR RAPE

An Odendaalsrus family briefed a sigh of relief when a stepfather who has sexually assaulted and raped his then 10 year-old stepdaughter for six years was sentenced to life imprisonment by Odendaalsrus Regional Court. The stepfather was found guilty of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, sexual grooming, displaying pornography to a child, three counts of sexual assault and rape by magistrate CF Nekosie.

According to the evidence presented in court, the stepfather, who cannot be named to protect the identity of the complainant, started raping the girl from 2008 when she was 10 years old until she was 16 years old.

The court heard that the complainant, though excelling academically and in sports, had occasional indiscipline which needed to be kept in check. The family, at the insistence of the accused, implemented a point system to discipline her. She would receive credit for good behaviour and would be penalised by not receiving pocket money if she failed to finish the end of a particular month with positive marks.

The duties that were expected to be done by the complainant became progressively more difficult to do and therefore it became difficult for her to accumulate any points. In order to get positive points, occasional sexual favours referred to as concessions, were granted by the complainant to the accused in exchange for positive points.

The first incident of sexual nature occurred whilst the family was on the way home from a festival. The accused put his hand high on her thigh. The complainant alerted her mother who reprimanded the accused. The accused apologised for his conduct.

In 2011, the accused started showing the complainant pornography and told her not to inform her mother. The accused continued to sexually assault the complainant until 2014 when he raped her. The complainant never told her mother because she did not think that she would believe her. She decided to report the incidents to the teachers at school and the matter was reported to the police.

In court, the accused denied all the allegation and stated that she confiscated the complainant's cellular phone because he caught her watching pornography. Magistrate Nekosie said the accused tried to portray his innocence but could not at times hide his volatile temper when he got agitated by the questioning of the state prosecutor, Elma van Nieker.

The magistrate said despite the complainant being a child and a single witness her evidence was consistent and she impressed as a witness.

State prosecutor, van Niekerk informed the court that there is overwhelming evidence against the accused because the complainant was an honest and reliable witness who never tried to exaggerate the conduct of the accused.

The court was satisfied that the state proved the guilt of the accused beyond reasonable doubt and subsequently sentenced him to life imprisonment.

The NPA welcomes this sentence with the hope that it will serve as a deterrent to would-be rapists who prey on vulnerable people.

Kind Regards,

Phaladi Shuping

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State

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