

Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:
media@npa.gov.za

Victoria & Griffiths
Mxenge Building
123 Westlake Avenue
Weavind Park
Silverton
Pretoria

www.npa.gov.za

TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: RAPIST STEPFATHER AND MOTHER CONVICTED

A 54 year-old man from the Zwelitsha area in Verulam was sentenced to a term of life imprisonment in the Verulam Regional Court this week after being convicted for the rape of his 11 year-old stepdaughter.

The accused raped the complainant on different occasions between 2011 and 2016. He would grievously assault the child under the pretence of disciplining her and then rape her once he had rendered her helpless. He would also rape the child after school and at night when she slept in the same bed as her sibling. On some nights, the child out of desperation would run away from the house through the window just to avoid being raped.

The state charged the girl's biological mother for failing to report to the police once she knew her child was being raped by the accused. Regional Court Prosecutor, Ishara Sewnarayan led evidence in court which showed the mother had once caught the accused raping the child and failed to intervene and report the matter.

In aggravation of sentence, Sewnarayan handed in a Victim Impact Statement compiled by the child and facilitated by Court Preparation Officer, Bongwiwe Qwabe. Here the complainant stated that her life had become hell after meeting her stepfather and that she will always regret not having a childhood like other children. She also stated that she never thought she will end up living in a children's home.

The stepfather was sentenced to life imprisonment while her mother was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment, wholly suspended for 5 years.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in KZN, Advocate Moipone Noko said, "I welcome both the conviction and sentence in this matter. It is disgusting to note the way in which

the stepfather abused his position of trust. It is further disturbing that the biological mother abandoned her duty of protecting her child by not reporting the rape.”

Kind Regards,

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

Enquiries: nramkisson@npa.gov.za

0716700229