

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 30 JANUARY 2020**

**RE: STEPFATHER JAILED FOR RAPING STEPDAUGHTER**

The Pretoria Regional Court sentenced a Mamelodi East man to life imprisonment for raping his 10 year-old stepdaughter in 2013. The mother of the victim was working as a domestic worker sleeping over at her employment place and only came home on weekends. The accused was unemployed and owned a tuck shop at the place of residence where he was staying with the child victim and her two siblings while the mother was away.

The victim testified that one evening in October 2013, her stepfather sent her to buy beer and upon return, he instructed her to bring the beer to his bedroom. He locked her in, raped her and threatened her with a firearm not to tell anyone. Fearing the accused and the company of friends he was always with (ex-prisoners and people who were always in trouble with the law), she couldn't tell her mother.

In 2018, her mother became unemployed and came to live with them on a full-time basis. The mother testified that she noticed that her child behaved strangely towards the accused, often with anger outbursts that would result in the accused hitting the child. She managed to ask the child if there was a problem and the child told her she hated her stepfather because he raped her.

The matter was reported to the police and criminal proceedings were instituted. The NPA relied on section 59 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act 32 of 2007, which states that the court may not draw any conclusion from the length of any delay between the time when the crime was committed and when it was reported. The court accepted the victim's version on why she delayed to report the matter. Her version was corroborated by her mother.

State Prosecutor Thulisile Shabalala argued that the accused abused the fact that the child trusted him and asked the court to consider the prevalence of such cases where child victims are mostly hurt by those they trust.

The court decided that the only suitable sentence to impose is life imprisonment as prescribed by the minimum sentences act for rape of a minor.

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