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Bryan William Lewis sentenced to 20 years in prison for sexually abusing child

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that 38-year-old Bryan William Lewis received a 20 year prison sentence for sexually abusing a nine-year-old girl.

"This sexual abuse had an enormous impact on this child," Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney Todd Jackson, who prosecuted this case, said after sentencing. "The victim continues to have nightmares and will endure lasting emotional trauma because of Bryan Lewis. Children should never have to go through something like this. The victim in this case was very courageous throughout this investigation, as she testified before the grand jury, and faced the prospect of a public trial in which she would have to describe the terrible things that the defendant did to her."

On December 3, 2018, Lewis appeared before Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Eric J. Bloch and pleaded no contest to four counts of sodomy in the first degree, four counts of encouraging child sexual abuse in the first degree and two counts of sexual abuse in the first degree. The sentencing hearing for this case was held on February 4, 2019 before Judge Bloch.

This investigation started in late November 2017 when officers assigned to the Portland Police Bureau responded to a residence in the Powellhurst-Gilbert neighborhood of Southeast Portland. The family of the nine-year-old girl raised concerns after noticing their child exhibiting abnormal behavior. The family spoke with the child and asked her if anyone had inappropriately touched her. After an initial disclosure, the child was brought to CARES Northwest for a full examination and forensic interview.

"This case highlights the importance of recognizing your child's behavioral changes and having age-appropriate conversations with them about inappropriate touching," DDA Jackson said. "Children should always know that it's safe to report this kind of behavior."

Law enforcement determined that the person responsible for the unlawful sexual contact was the defendant. Although Lewis is known to the victim and her family, he is not a relative. Law enforcement learned that he used to babysit the victim. The abuse occurred on multiple occasions at various locations throughout Multnomah County.

During the investigation law enforcement learned that Lewis threatened to tell the victim's family that she was misbehaving if she disclosed the sexual abuse. When Lewis was arrested, his phone was seized as evidence. Law enforcement later searched his phone and found numerous files containing child pornography that appeared to have been downloaded from the internet.

The victim and her family supported the pre-trial offer and wanted to resolve the case through a carefully negotiated settlement.

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office recognizes the work of the Portland Police Bureau and CARES Northwest, Multnomah County's child abuse assessment center, for their dedicated efforts on this case.

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