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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
November 7, 2024

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Janesville, WI – The Rock County District Attorney’s Office announced that Spencer Markham, age 57, was found guilty in Rock County Circuit Court Case 23CF1146 of three counts of Repeated Sexual Assault of a Child. Over the span of approximately thirty (30) years, Markham repeatedly sexually assaulted his child, grandchild and family friend. One victim stated that the assaults began when she was in the eighth grade, that Markham would provide the victim with items the victim needed and the victim would have to pay Markham back with sexual acts of every kind. A second victim stated the assaults began around the age of 6 years old and continued until the victim was around 12 years old. The victim stated that as the victim got older, the victim would fight back and Markham would use ropes to restrain the victim while he assaulted the victim, and the victim stated that the assaults by Markham occurred five out of seven days a week during that period. A third victim, age 7, stated that Markham made the victim perform sexual acts as a way of being punished.

Markham pleaded guilty as-charged of three counts, one for each victim, before Judge Ashley Morse. At the sentencing hearing on November 6, 2024, prosecutors argued for Markham to be incarcerated for fifty (50) years in prison. Judge Morse sentenced Markham to thirty (30) years in prison, followed by ten (10) years of Extended Supervision. The court ordered Markham to be on the sex offender registry for life.

The District Attorney would like to acknowledge the efforts of Detectives Dennis LaCaptain and Erin Johnson of the Janesville Police Department in leading the investigation into Markham’s activities. The District Attorney would especially like to acknowledge the bravery of the three victims and witnesses for assisting in the investigation who put an end to Markham’s predatory sexual assaults.

Our office believes that the case highlights how, with the help of community members and law enforcement, the criminal justice system can address the issues of crimes against children. Assistant District Attorney Alex Goulart and Margaret Ginocchio prosecuted the case for the State of Wisconsin.

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