

CLALLAM COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

MARK B. NICHOLS

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

223 EAST 4TH STREET, SUITE 11
PORT ANGELES, WA 98362
PHONE: 360-417-2301 FAX: 360-417-2469
TOLL FREE FROM FORKS: 360-374-5324

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 26, 2023
Port Angeles, Washington

Port Angeles Man Receives Sentence of 20 Years for Human Trafficking *Clallam County Superior Court Cause No.: 21-1-00309-05*

Today, the Honorable Judge Brent Basden sentenced Patrick Callahan, 61, of Port Angeles to 240 months in prison following his jury trial in mid-November. A jury found Callahan guilty of one count each of Sexual Misconduct with a Minor in the First Degree, Sexual Misconduct with a Minor in the Second Degree, Rape in the Third Degree, and Trafficking in the Second Degree with Sexual Motivation after three days of testimony. The jury also determined that certain aggravating factors, that the defendant used a position of trust to facilitate the crime and that each offense was part of a prolonged pattern of sexual abuse against the same minor under 18, existed. Judge Basden imposed a sentence of 60 months on the Sexual Misconduct with a Minor in the First Degree and Rape in the Third Degree convictions, 364 days on the Sexual Misconduct with a Minor in the Second Degree conviction, and 240 months on Trafficking in the Second Degree with Sexual Motivation conviction.

According to court documents and testimony, Callahan sexually abused a teenage female who had lived with his family since she was 9 or 10. At trial, the teenager testified she started living with Callahan and his family with her parents' permission in California when she was in the third grade because of instability, abuse, and neglect in her parents' home. Shortly after she moved in, Callahan groomed her by having her sleep naked with him, rub his back, and showering in front of him. Later he required her to perform oral sex and, eventually, intercourse. If she would refuse, he would threaten to send her back to her parents where they lacked necessities like safe housing and running water until she complied. When she moved with Callahan and his family to Port Angeles approximately two years later the abuse continued.

During the trial, the teenager told the jury that she did not tell anyone of the abuse for years because Callahan had told her she would be sent back to live with her parents in California if anyone found out. She testified that the sexual assaults became so frequent it was almost daily. The last two incidents occurred on October 22nd and 23rd, 2021 right before she was able to leave the home without Callahan knowing and contact the Port Angeles Police Department.

In addition to her testimony, the jury learned that Callahan's DNA was found on her right nipple, corroborating her account of the last time he sexually abused her. The State also admitted an image of distinguishing marks on Callahan's body that further bolstered the teenager's testimony.

Under Washington's sentencing laws, Callahan faced a standard sentence range of 186 to 240 months in prison. Since the jury also found aggravating factors existed, the court could have imposed an exceptional sentence above the standard range. This would have meant that the court could have sentenced Callahan to more than 240 months in prison, including life imprisonment.

At the sentencing hearing the court heard from the survivor through a statement read onto the record, which described the impact of Callahan's actions on her as a child and adult. The survivor bravely told the court how the trauma affected her and her relationships with others.

The State represented by Matthew Roberson argued for an exceptional sentence of 321 months, or 26.75 years, of incarceration. In making the prosecution's recommendation, Roberson directed the court to the appalling habitual, routine nature of the sexual abuse, Callahan's lack of remorse and consideration for the survivor, and Callahan's abuse of the survivor's and her parents' trust. Roberson also acknowledged the bravery of the survivor for coming forward and facing her perpetrator in court.

Karen Unger, representing Callahan, argued for standard range sentence, citing Callahan's age at time of release, his lack of criminal history, and proportionality between the punishment and crime. Callahan submitted letters on his behalf but did not address the Court.

"Mr. Callahan was able to show his best side to the public and friends while engaging in sex slavery in secret for years until the young woman bravely came forward," said Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Matthew Roberson. "As vile and heinous as Mr. Callahan's behavior is, this case also reminds us that human trafficking is here in Clallam County and that it might not look the way we see on television or imagine it. Thankfully due to the courage of one survivor and the hard work of the Port Angeles Police Department, Mr. Callahan is unable to engage in that type of behavior for the next twenty years."

Callahan will serve 240 years in prison before he is release. He will then be on three years of community custody which include treatment obligations. He will also have to register as a sex offender for life and pay mandatory legal financial obligations. Judge Basden also granted the survivor a lifetime sexual assault protection order.

Office Information

The Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney's Office employs over 25 people, including 14 attorneys. Clallam County, which includes Forks, Port Angeles and Sequim, has an approximate population of 80,000.

The Criminal Division represents the state and the county in criminal matters in the Clallam County District and Superior Courts. The Criminal Division is responsible for prosecuting all felonies in Clallam County and all misdemeanors in unincorporated areas of Clallam County as well as the Cities of Port Angeles and Sequim.

The Civil Division acts as the law firm representing the County and its agencies. The Civil Division advises and represents all of the County's elected officials and departments on a myriad of complex legal matters. The range of legal representation provided by this unit is expansive and covers virtually every aspect of civil practice.

The Child Support Division is wholly funded by and represents the Division of Child Support of the State of Washington. The Support Division carries out judicial establishment of paternity and child support, enforcements for failure to pay court-ordered child support, and modifications to existing child support orders. The Support Division also represents the State of Washington in collection actions on parents owing a duty of support.

For more information call:

Matthew Roberson

Clallam County Deputy Prosecutor

(360) 417 – 2401

END