

# CLALLAM COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 6, 2021  
Port Angeles, Washington

### **Port Angeles Man Receives 11 Years for Strangling and Raping Woman** *Clallam County Superior Court Cause No.: 20-1-00218-05*

On Thursday, August 5, the Honorable Judge Lauren Erickson sentenced Sidney Hicklin Jr, 43, of Port Angeles to 136 months in prison for Rape in the Second Degree by Forcible Compulsion. She also imposed sentences of 15 months for Assault in the Second Degree by Strangulation, 12 months for Felony Harassment, and 2 months for Unlawful Imprisonment. Under Washington law, the sentences will be served concurrently. Hicklin's sentence followed a four day trial in early June.

According to court documents and testimony, Hicklin became angry at a female friend after she could not produce his debit card following a trip from a convenience store on July 4, 2020. After she could not produce the card, Hicklin got on top of the survivor and began to strangle her while questioning her about the card. Hicklin also threatened to kill the woman, telling her he would "end her." At some point, Hicklin raped the woman, forcing his penis into her vagina. During the rape, the woman was able to convince Hicklin to stop the assault so she could look in her car for his card or money to give him. Once Hicklin let her up, she was able to escape.

Under Washington's sentencing laws, Hicklin faced a standard sentence range of 102 to 136 months in prison subject to the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (ISRB) for his rape conviction.<sup>1</sup> Being subject to the ISRB means that after an offender serves the sentence imposed by the court, the ISRB will determine if the person can be released. The ISRB may keep an offender incarcerated for life.

In a two-day sentencing hearing, the court heard from a representative of the survivor who described the impact of Hicklin's actions, telling the court she would live with the events for

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<sup>1</sup> The Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (ISRB or Board) was created in 1986. Before that, the Board had been the Board of Prison Terms and Paroles. The Board is a quasi-judicial board located in the Department of Corrections (DOC). The Board retains independent decision making, and has jurisdiction over persons who committed certain sex offenses on or after September 1, 2001. For more information about the ISRB, go to <http://doc.wa.gov/corrections/isrb/default.htm>.

the rest of her life. The survivor described how she continues to deal with insomnia, nightmares, and fear that prevents her from resuming a normal life.

The State, represented by Matthew Roberson, argued for a sentence of 136 months, the high-end of the range for the rape conviction. In making the prosecution's recommendation, Roberson directed the court to the excessive force Hicklin used in committing the rape, the crime's effects on the survivor's life, and Hicklin's use of death threats while strangling and raping the survivor. Roberson also commended the bravery of the survivor who had the courage to face her rapist in open court.

John Black, representing Hicklin, argued for a low-end sentence of 102 months, describing the rape as less severe than other instances that the court might see. Hicklin declined to address the court.

"After carefully weighing all the evidence heard at trial, the severity of the defendant's conduct, and the impact on the survivor, the court imposed the right sentence," said Roberson. "Mr. Hicklin's conduct speaks for itself and he received the most severe sentence that the court could impose under Washington's laws. I just want to credit the courage shown by the survivor in coming forward and testifying about what the defendant did to her. At the end of the day, her strength and the good investigation by the Port Angeles Police Department ensured Mr. Hicklin would be held accountable for his unacceptable behavior."

Hicklin will serve 136 months in prison before he is considered eligible for release. The Indeterminate Sentencing Review Board will then determine if Hicklin should be released. The ISRB has the discretion to keep Hicklin incarcerated for up to a life term. If released, Hicklin will be on community custody for life subject to the same ISRB where he will be required to comply with all directives from the Department of Corrections. He will also have to register as a sex offender for life and pay mandatory legal financial obligations. Judge Erickson also granted a lifetime Sexual Assault Protection Orders for the survivor.

### **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:

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