

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

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Sequim Man Receives Sentence of 18 Years to Life for First-Degree Child Rape *Clallam County Superior Court Cause No.: 20-1-00061-05*

Today, the Honorable Judge Lauren Erickson sentenced Anthony Brownfield, 54, of Sequim to a minimum of 216 months in prison following his jury trial in early July. A jury found Brownfield guilty of three counts of Rape of a Child in the First Degree following three days of testimony. The jury also determined that certain aggravating factors, that each crime was against a vulnerable victim and part of a prolonged pattern of sexual abuse against a minor under 18, existed. The sentence of 216 months was imposed on each of the three counts. The time will be served concurrently as required under Washington law.

According to court documents and testimony, Brownfield first raped a five-year old female relative in 2002 by performing oral sex on her and having her lick his penis. At trial, the survivor, now an adult, testified about this incident as well as two other separate times Brownfield committed similar crimes. She also told the jury that other sexual abuse occurred until she was eight years old, but that the three rapes were the incidents she remembered most.

The prosecution played a recorded interview for the jury where Brownfield admitted to Detective Brandon Stoppani of the Clallam County Sheriff's Office that he sexually abused the survivor when she was a child. In the interview, he estimated that the abuse occurred 30 to 50 times. At trial, Brownfield testified he was suffering from hallucinations during the recorded interview due to the drug use. He adamantly denied that he committed the crimes and explained his admissions were not true. The jury convicted him despite his claim.

Under Washington's sentencing laws, Brownfield faced a standard sentence range of 162 to 216 months in prison subject to the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (ISRB) for each of his rape convictions.¹ Being subject to the ISRB means that after an offender serves the

¹ ¹ 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>.

sentence imposed by the court, the ISRB will determine if the person can be released. The ISRB may keep an offender incarcerated for life.

Since the jury also found two 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 Brownfield to more than 216 months in prison, including life imprisonment. He would have had to serve whatever exceptional sentence the court imposed before being eligible for release by the ISRB.

At the sentencing hearing, the court heard from the survivor who described the impact of Brownfield's actions on her both as a child and an adult. The survivor described how she kept the abuse a secret in throughout her childhood and adolescence until she was ready to come forward and stop the abuse from becoming a generational curse in her own family.

The State represented by Matthew Roberson argued for an exceptional sentence of 300 months on each rape conviction. In making the prosecution's recommendation, Roberson directed the court to appalling nature of the crimes, the prolonged period of abuse of a young child, and the unique vulnerability of the survivor. Roberson also commended the courage of the survivor for coming forward and facing her perpetrator in court.

Alex Stalker, representing Brownfield, argued for a low-end sentence of 162 months, citing the age of crimes and Brownfield's lack of additional sex offenses since the abuse ended in the mid-2000s. Brownfield addressed the court to apologize for wasting the court's time and for the pain he caused the survivor.

"The survivor showed a ton of courage in coming forward and facing her perpetrator," said Roberson. "Sex assaults against children are among the most heinous crimes in our society and it is only through the bravery of survivors and determination of law enforcement that we are able to hold offenders like Mr. Brownfield accountable. I appreciate the jury's full and fair consideration of the evidence and the survivor's willingness to go through the criminal justice process. While no amount of prison time can erase what Mr. Brownfield did, our community is safer with him off the streets."

Brownfield will serve 216 months in prison before he is considered eligible for release. The Indeterminate Sentencing Review Board will then determine if Brownfield should be released. The ISRB has the discretion to keep him incarcerated for up to a life term. If released, Brownfield 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:

Matthew Roberson

Clallam County Deputy Prosecutor

(360) 417 – 2401

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