

# CLALLAM COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Human Trafficking Conviction Stands**

*Washington State Supreme Court No. 1043139*

Earlier this week, the Washington State Supreme Court denied Patrick Callahan's request that his 2022 conviction for human trafficking be reviewed. As a result, the Washington Court of Appeals decision affirming his convictions stands.

Callahan's convictions for Human Trafficking in the Second Degree with Sexual Motivation, Sexual Misconduct with a Minor in the First and Second Degree, and Rape in the Third Degree resulted from a Port Angeles Police Department investigation launched in October 2021 when a woman disclosed years of sexual abuse in California and Washington. According to her testimony at trial, Callahan met her while tutoring her when she was in third grade in California and invited her to begin spending time with his child and visiting his home. Eventually, she began living with Callahan and his family after he noticed her own family's impoverished living situation. He provided her with shelter, food, clothing, and other necessities. The sexual abuse began shortly after that and continued when Callahan moved the family to Port Angeles. When the woman would decline to participate in Callahan's sexual abuse, he would threaten to send her back to live in California where her parents still struggled to feed and house themselves.

Following his convictions, Callahan was sentenced to a minimum sentence of 20 years for human trafficking with the other charges' prison terms running concurrently. After completion of his 20-year sentence, Callahan's release would be up to Washington's Indeterminate Sentence Review Board, which could impose additional terms of imprisonment.

Callahan appealed arguing that the conviction for human trafficking should be dismissed because the evidence was insufficient. Callahan argued that a conviction for human trafficking required a third person to be involved as in a more typical scenario where a person profits from requiring another to engage in prostitution with others. On May 19, 2025, the Washington State Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction for human trafficking.

The Court held that the human trafficking statute did not require a third party to be involved for a jury to find Callahan guilty. Rather, the statute only required the jury to be able to find

that Callahan caused the survivor to engage in a commercial sex act which is “any act of sexual contact or sexual intercourse for which something of value is given or received by any person.” In this case, the Court of Appeals found that the survivor qualified as “any person.” Further, the Court stated that “a rational trier of fact could conclude that Callahan caused [the survivor] to engage in acts of sexual contact and intercourse with him in return for ongoing housing, food, and support of her basic needs—things of value.”

Callahan requested the Washington State Supreme Court to review the Court of Appeals’ decision. On October 8, 2025, the Washington State Supreme Court filed an order denying the request for review effectively ending Callahan’s appeal.

### **Office Information**

The Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office employs over 24 people, including 14 attorneys. Clallam County, which includes Forks, Port Angeles, and Sequim, has an approximate population of 78,000.

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 Enforcement Division is wholly funded by and represents the Division of Child Support of the State of Washington. The Support Enforcement 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 Enforcement Division also represents the State of Washington in collection actions on parents owing a duty of support.

For more information contact

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