



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bator sentenced to Life in Prison for Sexual Assaults

Yreka. On July 24, 2017, Anthony Bator, 62, of Montague, was sentenced on 13 felony convictions including 12 counts of Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child and 1 count of Stalking. He had previously been convicted by a Siskiyou County jury on June 20, 2017. He was sentenced to 180 years to life for the sexual assault charges and 2 additional years for stalking. The defendant was ordered to register for life as a sex offender. The defendant represented himself during the trial and post-trial proceedings.

Bator has been tried on these charges in a previous jury trial. On March 17, 2017 he had been convicted of the Stalking charge by that jury. Three days later a mistrial was declared in the case because the jury could not reach a unanimous verdict on the other 12 charges. The defendant had attorney Aaron Williams of Redding represent him during the March trial. After the mistrial the Siskiyou County District Attorney's Office declared an intention to continue to pursue the case in front of another jury. On April 4, 2017 the defendant made a motion to be able to represent himself. Retired Judge Donald R. Langford heard the request, cautioned the defendant regarding what he was getting in to, and then allowed that he was within his rights to do so.

The subsequent jury trial was presided over by Judge Roman, assigned as a visiting judge from Sacramento County. During the trial the victim, who was 17 when she reported the abuse, described sexual, emotional and physical abuse by the defendant—her maternal uncle—as well as by her mother. She reported sexual abuse beginning at age 3 and continuing until she was 13 years of age. Around that time the victim went to live with stepparents who later became her legal guardians. While living with her stepparents the defendant called her constantly—often dozens of times per day—and followed her to the fair, to her school in Oregon, and showed up every day to her place of work in Yreka to walk back and forth and watch the victim.

On the date of the sentencing hearing Judge Roman denied motions filed by the defendant to dismiss the case, set aside the verdicts and for a new trial. These motions comprised approximately 1500 pages that had been filed just the week prior. The jury trial, and all of the hearings surrounding it, was marked by the defendant's unusual behavior and outlandish claims of conspiracy and brainwashing.

In sentencing Bator, Judge Roman found that he had attempted to suborn perjury during the trial by promising to pay a cellmate in the Siskiyou County Jail \$4000 to fabricate sordid reports against the victim's stepparent who was instrumental in reporting the crimes. Judge Roman then sentenced the defendant to a consecutive 15 years to life for each of the 12 charges, noting that each were on separate occasions and that he had the opportunity between them to reflect on his actions and discontinue his behavior. The Judge then turned to the victim, who was present with her stepparents—who are now her legal guardians—and told her that he watched her during her testimony and was able to see that, despite what she had endured, she had an internal resilience. He also commended her family support system from her guardians, whom she describes as her parents, and told her that she had a bright future in front of her.

When the defendant again began to rail against the proceedings and the sentence, and turned to face the victim and her family, the prosecutor, Deputy District Attorney Monique Neese, stood between him and the victim to block his view while the judge ordered him remanded to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The victim did not make a statement in court at the sentencing hearing but afterward acknowledged her gratitude to the Court, to Ms. Neese and the District Attorney's victim/witness office, to the Sheriff's Department investigators, and the jurors. She stated that she was overwhelmed with happiness because in that she was finally free to live her life without fear. She was also thrilled that the truth had come out and that Mr. Bator could never hurt her or anyone else again.