



Twelfth Judicial District
State of New Mexico
OTERO, LINCOLN COUNTIES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL SENTENCED TO 131 YEARS IN PRISON FOR CHILD SEX ABUSE

Twelfth Judicial District Attorney John P. Sugg announced today that the Honorable Steven E. Blankinship has ordered Christopher Mitchell, age 35, to serve 131 years in prison. An Otero County jury found Mitchell guilty of First Degree Criminal Sexual Penetration of a Minor (Child Under 13), and seven counts of Criminal Sexual Contact of a Minor in the Second Degree (Person in Position of Authority) following a two-day trial in September of this year.

In February 2014, the Alamogordo Police Department (APD) interviewed a mother who was concerned that Mitchell, her boyfriend, was having sex with her daughter. The child was 15 years old at the time, and Mitchell had been in the child's life since she was 6 years old. While Mitchell and the child initially denied having a sexual relationship, the child later came forward in 2016 to report that Mitchell had been sexually abusing her since age 10. The sexual abuse continued until she was 17 years old.

Each of the offenses Mitchell was sentenced for today were enhanced by one year because Mitchell is considered to be a habitual offender under New Mexico law. Mitchell will be required to serve at least 85% of his 131-year sentence before he becomes eligible for parole. Additionally, Judge Blankinship ordered Mitchell to serve his 131-year sentence on this case consecutive to a 4-year prison sentence that Mitchell is currently serving for an unrelated child abuse case involving the same victim. While Mitchell is unlikely to live long enough to become eligible for parole, he was also ordered to register as a sex offender for the balance of his life and he would be required to serve an indeterminate parole period of a minimum of 5 years up to the balance of his life.

“Unfortunately, this case is not an atypical case of child sexual abuse. Victims oftentimes choose not to disclose the abuse, or deny the abuse until they are separated from their abusers.” District Attorney John P. Sugg said. “In this case, the victim was separated from Mitchell because he was arrested on other charges allowing her to feel safe and secure enough to disclose the sexual abuse. Thankfully, there were also two dedicated Alamogordo Police Officers, the late-Clint Corvinus and Detective Kyle Graham, who recognized something was wrong so they persisted with their investigation. These convictions and today's sentence would not have been possible without the bravery of the victim and the dedication of those officers.”

This case was prosecuted by Chief Deputy District Attorney Scot Key.

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