



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Office of the District Attorney
Twelfth Judicial District

Scot D. Key
District Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 16, 2022

JAMES SCHARMACK SENTENCED TO 345 YEARS INCARCERATION AFTER BEING CONVICTED OF 15 COUNTS OF CRIMINAL SEXUAL PENETRATION OF A CHILD UNDER 13 YEARS OF AGE AND 5 COUNTS OF CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONTACT OF A CHILD UNDER 13 YEARS OF AGE

Twelfth Judicial District Attorney, Scot D. Key, announces a Sentencing was completed on Defendant, James Scharmack, age 41, of Alamogordo, New Mexico. On May 13, 2022, James Scharmack was sentenced to 345 years incarceration after being convicted of 15 counts of Criminal Sexual Penetration of a Child Under 13 Years of Age and 5 counts of Criminal Sexual Contact of a Child Under 13 Years of Age.

This case was the culmination of an investigation conducted by the Alamogordo Police Department in February of 2018, for sex crimes occurring in 2018 and 2019 in Alamogordo, New Mexico. The victims were siblings and relayed the sexual abuse through a note passed to their mother.

The parties appeared for the scheduled three-day trial from April 6, 2022, through April 8, 2022, where Scharmack was convicted of 15 counts of Criminal Sexual Penetration of a Child Under 13 Years of Age and 5 counts of Criminal Sexual Contact of a Child Under 13 Years of Age. During the trial, Dr. Jana Williams of Full Bloom Pediatrics, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, provided professional expert testimony along with Melanie Gilmore of Kid's Inc., Child Advocacy Center.

After his conviction, a Sentencing Hearing was completed on May 13, 2022. The Honorable Judge, Steven Blankinship, sentenced James Scharmack to the maximum punishment of 345 years incarceration in the New Mexico Department of Corrections. Scharmack had been in Pre-Trial Detention since his arrest on February 19, 2018, and has remained incarcerated throughout the entirety of this case.

District Attorney, Key, noted that the 345-year sentence handed down by the Honorable Judge, Steven Blankinship, was the longest sentence that has ever been handed down in this District, but which, "was certainly warranted by the harm the Defendant caused while sexually abusing all three of the children for over a year." All twenty counts of the crimes he was convicted of are serious violent offenses under New Mexico law, and as such, Scharmack will have to serve 85 percent of that time. Indeed, the sentence imposed will inevitably be a life sentence.

District Attorney, Key, described the more than three year wait for justice as heartbreaking, for both the girls and their entire family. However, they can now focus on both their recovery and on their special interests in school.

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This case was investigated by Detective, William Lewandowski, of the Alamogordo Police Department. Moreover, the Otero County Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT), was also intimately involved in this case. The MDT is comprised of participating members from agencies, including Kid's Inc., Child Advocacy Center (Forensic Interviewing), SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners), Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD), law enforcement, and the Twelfth Judicial District Attorney's Office.

Scharmack's case was prosecuted by Twelfth Judicial District Attorney, Scot D. Key.

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