

## TREVOR LAVALAIS (PRINCIPAL AT LEGACY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY) SENTENCED TO 65 YEARS IN PRISON FOR SEXUAL ABUSE INVOLVING CHILDREN

12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney, Scot D. Key announces on June 6, 2023, 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge Angie Schneider sentenced Trevor Lavalais of Alamogordo to 65 years in prison.

Lavalais was the principal at Legacy Christian Academy on Scenic drive when a student revealed to a counselor that he and the principal had watched pornography together in one of the school classrooms. The disclosure led to a criminal investigation by the Alamogordo Police Department and the Twelfth Judicial District Attorney's Investigations Unit starting on February 10, 2022. In conjunction with KID's Inc., children from the Christian Academy were forensically interviewed over several days which led to the arrest of Trevor Lavalais.

The State filed what is referred to as a Pre Trial-Detention Motion with the District Court. A District Court Judge found that Lavalais was dangerous and there were no conditions of release that would reasonably protect the community and the victims. Lavalais remained in jail from the time of his arrest on February 11, 2022, until he was sentenced on July 6, 2023. Five (5) juvenile victims were identified, and they were referred to as John Doe's throughout the investigation to protect their identities. The investigation revealed that the defendant used his position of authority to both learn of the John Doe's personal characteristics thru access to their files and to befriend the victims by acting as a mentor/counselor. It was through extensive grooming that allowed Lavalais to be successful in de-sensitizing them to sexual issues and which led Lavalais to sexually abuse and/or prepare them for sexual abuse.

12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge Angie Schneider heard from one of John Doe's fathers and through a letter, heard from one of the victims. The Court sentenced the defendant to 65 years in prison which was the most jurisdiction that the Court had in the case.

Once again, the 12th Judicial District multi-disciplinary team (MDT) played a large role in conducting forensic interviews and by providing services to the victims and their families.

