



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Michael T. Dougherty, District Attorney

Press Release

For Immediate Release
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**Defendant Michael Smith pled guilty to First Degree Assault (F3-ER)
and Attempted Sexual Assault on a Child (F5).**

Michael Smith, 55, pled guilty to First Degree Assault (F3-ER) and Attempted Sexual Assault on a Child (F5). Michael Smith, the defendant, and the victim met when the defendant was staying at her parent's house in the late 1990's. Both the defendant and the victim's parents were part of the Shambhala community. The defendant started grooming the victim and ultimately subjected her to sexual contact for a number of years. In 1998, the defendant trapped the victim in a small closet and attempted to penetrate the victim's vagina with his penis. Based on this incident, the victim disclosed the sexual abuse she had been enduring and it was reported to the Boulder Police Department. The victim's parents decided not to provide the name of the defendant to the Boulder Police Department and dealt with the ongoing sexual abuse within the Shambhala community. In 2019, the victim reported the abuse to the Boulder Police Department after seeing articles regarding sexual abuse in the Shambhala community. A second individual reported that this defendant had sexually assaulted her when she was 11 years old in Vermont.

Mr. Smith was taken into custody pending sentencing based on the First Degree Assault (F3-ER) charge. The First Degree Assault charge is stipulated to the Department of Corrections to a range of 15 to 25 years and the Attempted Sexual Assault on a Child (F5) is stipulated to 3 years to the Department of Corrections concurrent with the First Degree Assault charge. Mr. Smith will be sentenced on May 6, 2020.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Laura Kinde stated, "We thank the brave victim for coming forward after so many years had passed and the Boulder Police Department for their thorough investigation into these allegations."

District Attorney Michael Dougherty stated, "The District Attorney's Office is committed to fighting for victims of sexual abuse. This defendant sexually assaulted the victim for *years*. Even with the passage of time, sex offenses often cause lasting trauma for the victims. I appreciate the response and efforts of the Boulder Police Department and our staff. Their hard work allowed us to secure the right outcome in this case."