



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Michael T. Dougherty, District Attorney

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**Press Release - Defendant Michael Smith Sentenced to
20 Years in the Department of Corrections**

On March 4, 2020, 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, rather, 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. Additionally, a second individual reported that this defendant had sexually assaulted her when she was 11 years old in Vermont.

Mr. Smith was sentenced to 20 years to the Department of Corrections today.

This office recently learned of a report of another sexual assault on a child committed by the defendant eight years ago in Pennsylvania.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Laura Kinde stated, "We want to thank the survivor for coming forward and reporting what happened to her over 20 years ago. In doing so, we were able to discover other young girls the Defendant had victimized and stop the Defendant from perpetrating sexual abuse on any additional young girls. The Boulder Police Department did an outstanding job with this investigation and because of that we were able to secure a conviction and sentence that will protect the community for years to come."

In addition, District Attorney Michael Dougherty stated, "Our office appreciates the victim's strength in coming forward and disclosing what this defendant did to her when she was a child. The trauma inflicted upon children who are sexually assaulted can often remain with

them for their entire lives. It is because of this victim's courage, and the excellent work by the Boulder Police Department, that this outcome was reached. The Boulder Police Department worked hard and put together a very strong case, which led to the defendant's guilty plea and today's sentence. Justice was delayed, but not denied. For other kids, and for our community, this is the right outcome."