



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

Columbia Man Sentenced to 8 Years in Prison for Sexual Abuse of his Stepdaughter

Howard County, MD (May 9, 2022) – Terrance Diggs, age 64, pleaded guilty today to sexual abuse of a minor and second-degree sex offense. Howard County Circuit Court Judge Raymond Kane sentenced Diggs to 20 years suspend all but 8 years of active incarceration.

On January 12, 2021, an officer from the Howard County Police Department spoke with the victim who reported being sexually abused by her stepfather, Terrance Diggs, when she was a young girl. The abuse occurred between the ages of 8 to 16 years old. The victim claimed she was not in a psychologically or emotionally safe place to discuss the trauma associated with these events until recently. The incidents occurred almost 20 years ago.

The victim indicated the sexual abuse would occur when her mother was away from home. It continued several times a week over the course of several years, starting when she began to live with Diggs in Howard County. The victim ultimately ran away from home at the age of 16.

Witnesses were identified who confirmed Diggs had admitted to them that he had sexually abused his stepdaughter.

On January 13, 2021, Diggs was arrested. In a statement he gave to police, Diggs admitted having inappropriate contact with the victim.

Upon release from prison, Diggs will be under 5 years of supervised probation. He must also refrain from having any contact with the victim, have no unsupervised contact with minors, participate in sex offender treatment and register as a Tier III sex offender for the remainder of his life.

“Even though justice in this case was delayed, it certainly wasn’t denied,” said State’s Attorney Rich Gibson. “It took an incredible amount of courage for this victim to come forward and re-live the traumatic events that occurred at the hands of the only man she thought of as a father. We are pleased with the outcome of this case and hope it encourages those who may be reluctant to come forward, no matter how much time has passed.”

State’s Attorney Rich H. Gibson and Senior Assistant State’s Attorney Jennifer W. Ritter prosecuted this case.

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