



Matthew Van Houten
District Attorney

Tel: (607) 274-5461
Fax: (607) 274-5429

March 26, 2024

PRESS RELEASE / FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

District Attorney Matthew Van Houten announced today that Stephan R. Starks, 74, of Newfield, appeared in Tompkins County Court today and was sentenced to a term of 10 years in State Prison together with 20 years of Post Release Supervision in connection with his conviction for the crime of Course of Sexual Conduct Against a Child in the First Degree.

Course of Sexual Conduct Against a Child in the First Degree is a Class B Violent Felony in New York State.

During the entry of his guilty plea on January 23, 2024, Starks admitted that he subjected a child who was less than thirteen years old to repeated instances of sexual contact over a several year period.

Judge Scott A. Miller presided over the case. Assistant District Attorney Heidi S. Paulino prosecuted the case and Attorney Jerome Mayersak of Ithaca represented the defendant.

Van Houten said, "There is nothing that the Court system can provide to heal the trauma suffered by the victim in this case, but it is my hope that this represents a step toward closure for the victim and her family. This resolution should serve as a strong message that this kind of abuse has no place in our community."

The District Attorney's Office recognizes and thanks the investigating agency, the New York State Police, Troop C Bureau of Criminal Investigations.
