



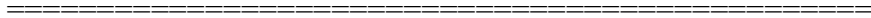
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*"Inclusion Through Diversity"*

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PRESS RELEASE / FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



District Attorney Matthew Van Houten announced today that Michael A. Phelps, 70, of Dryden, appeared in Tompkins County Court yesterday afternoon and pled guilty to Attempted Course of Sexual Conduct Against a Child in the Second Degree in violation of Penal Law Sections 110.00 and 130.80(1)(b).

Attempted Course of Sexual Conduct Against a Child in the Second Degree is a Class E Felony in New York State.

During the entry of his guilty plea, Phelps admitted to subjecting a child, who was less than thirteen years old and under his care, to repeated instances of sexual contact throughout 2016 and 2017.

The Court determined Phelps to be a sex offender subject to the New York State Sex Offender Registration Act and designated him as a Level 1 Sexually Violent Offender. Under such a designation, Phelps will be required to register as a sex offender for his lifetime.

Phelps was sentenced to ten years of felony probation supervision in connection and will be required to participate in the Tompkins County Sex Offender Compliance Court.

Judge Richard M. Wallace presided over the case. Deputy District Attorney Andrew Bonavia prosecuted the case with assistance from Assistant District Attorney Heidi Paulino. Attorney Jacob McNamara of Schlather, Stumbar, Parks & Salk LLP 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 her and her family. This kind of abuse has no place in our community."

The District Attorney's Office recognizes and thanks the investigating officer, Patrick Kimmich of the Dryden Police Department.

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