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PRESS RELEASE

On January 23, 2018, Yakima Police were called to the report of a home invasion sexual assault that had just taken place here in the city of Yakima. Officers arrived on scene minutes after dispatch and confirmed that a 12-year-old female had been raped at knifepoint and that an unknown assailant had bound the child's grandmother with packaging tape after he broke into the home. The suspect ordered the grandmother and the victim's 16-year-old sister to get onto the floor while he completed the sexual assault. As the incident was unfolding, the 16-year-old and the grandmother rushed the suspect and fought over the knife. The suspect ended up being stabbed in the chest and he fled the scene on foot. The 16-year-old sister and the 12-year-old victim were both cut by the knife during the struggle.

After hours of searching, Yakima Police Officer B. Althaus and Officer J. Molineux found the suspect hiding not far from where the incident took place. The suspect, Daniel Arnold, had rolled himself up in an outdoor carpet on a back porch of a residence. The suspect had an obvious stab-wound to his chest, and he was taken into custody. These officers continued to search for the suspect even though the perimeter had been terminated and a K9 search had failed.

On Tuesday, November 1, 2022, Daniel Arnold was found guilty after a bench trial in front of the Honorable Jeff Swan. After being held in custody for nearly five years pending trial, he was convicted in Yakima County Superior Court for the following crimes:

Rape 1st Degree (aggravated with a deadly weapon enhancement);

Rape of a Child 2nd Degree (aggravated with a deadly weapon enhancement);

Burglary 1st Degree (aggravated with a deadly weapon enhancement and sexual motivation enhancement);

Kidnapping 1st Degree (3 counts, each aggravated with a deadly weapon enhancement and a sexual motivation enhancement);

Assault 2nd Degree (2 counts, each aggravated with a deadly weapon enhancement and a sexual motivation enhancement);

Yesterday, December 12, Daniel Arnold was sentenced to prison. He was sentenced to life in prison with a minimum of **960 months (or 80 years)** in totality for all the convictions. However, for Count 1, First Degree Rape, the court found an exceptional sentence was deserved which was 126 months (or 10.5 years) above the

standard maximum for that offense. The exceptional sentence was because the court had found that the First-Degree Rape involved a destructive or foreseeable impact on persons other than the victim.

This was one of the worst sexual assault crimes I, and the Yakima County Prosecutor's Office, have ever been associated with in our careers. This court indicated this as well when Judge Swan said it was one of the most depraved crimes he had seen. The heinous nature and cruelty of this home invasion rape of a 12-year girl shocked the conscience of Yakima County. Simply, this defendant deserves every month of incarceration that he received from the court.

I want to thank the Yakima Police Department truly and sincerely and most notably the late Detective Angie Nielsen and Detective Michael Durbin for their superb and dedicated efforts investigating this crime and following it through to its conclusion. Det. Durbin states the following:

This case remains one of the most heinous sexual assaults in Yakima's history, a true stranger attack with no connection to the victims whatsoever. I know it has had a lasting impact on many of the first responders and detectives who assisted in the investigation. I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation for all the officers and detectives who participated in the trial. This conviction is a direct result of your hard work and determination. The victim(s) and their families have conveyed their sincere appreciation and support for the Yakima Police Department and the Yakima County Prosecutor's Office.

I also want to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the hard work and efforts of Deputy Prosecutor Jared Boswell and Victim/Witness liaison Aaron Buchanan who took over the prosecution of this case near the end and successfully presented it to the court to obtain a finding of guilt. They did a great job representing the Yakima County Prosecutor's Office.

This terrible and tragic case will long live in our memories. May the young ladies and their grandma move on, in some way, and lead fantastic lives to show the defendant and to our county that they will achieve success despite this evil perpetrated upon them.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Brusic
Yakima County Prosecutor