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PRESS RELEASE

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MAN SENTENCED FOR 2005 MOLESTATION

After eight years of court process, Keith Dow was brought to justice. On November 1, 2013 a jury convicted Dow of Child Molestation in the first degree.

In 2005 Jane Doe's mother reported her live-in boyfriend Dow molested her three-year old daughter. The Longview Police immediately investigated and the State charged Dow. In 2006 4-year old Doe was unable to tell her story. The State attempted to proceed with an admission by Dow of "inadvertent" contact. However, Superior Court Judge Steven Warning found the statute allowing such evidence to be unconstitutional and dismissed the case. The State appealed the decision and the case proceeded through Division Two court of appeals and the Washington Supreme Court for the next four years. Both courts disagreed with Judge Warning and found the statute constitutional. However, the Supreme Court determined in 2006, the State did not have enough evidence to proceed to trial. The Supreme Court's decision left open the possibility if Doe was able to testify or new evidence arose, the State could re-file charges.

In 2010, 8 year-old Doe could tell her story and the re-filed the charge. It took another three years to bring the case to a jury due to the number of changes in defense counsel, motions, and continuances. However, eight years after the molestation, Jane Doe had her day in court

Judge Marilyn Haan sentenced Dow to the mandatory sentence of Life, with the possibility of release in 68 months. If Dow is released by the Department of Corrections, he will be monitored as a sex offender for the rest of his life.