
November 24, 2014

Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: Audrey Hurley
Age: 45
City and State of residence: Elk Point, SD
Criminal File Number: 14-064
Convicted of: Contributory Abuse of a Child (M1) 26-9-1
Date of Offense: December 2012 through July 1, 2013
Arraignment Date: August 26, 2014
Change of Plea Date: August 26, 2014
Date of Sentence: November 17, 2014 @ 11:00 a.m.
Arresting Officer: SA Brian Schnabel – South Dakota Division of Criminal Justice
Defendant's Attorney: Jonathan Blum - retained

Case Synopsis:

Audrey Hurley was charged with contributing to the abuse of a child when that child was fifteen and sixteen years old on at least four occasions by providing an environment that was injurious to the child's welfare. Hurley's actions subjected the child to sexual abuse, molestation, or exploitation when she, on at least one occasion committed the act of fellatio, and on at least three occasions, committed the acts which included intercourse. To this charge and these allegations, Audrey Hurley entered a guilty plea.

Audrey Hurley worked in the Elk Point school system as a teacher's aide at the elementary / kinder garden level. Audrey Hurley was not in a teacher-student relationship with her victim as it pertains to this case. Audrey Hurley and her husband knew this victim had recently been through a traumatic sexual abuse situation and between her husband and her it was agreed upon that Hurley would approach the victim's parents and offer to provide this person a safe environment. The victim in this case became involved in a relationship with Audrey's daughter which was to be monitored by Audrey Hurley. However, Audrey Hurley began to counsel this person as he was dealing with his issues of being previously molested. This person's abuser was successfully convicted in Iowa. According to reports and the victim, Audrey Hurley's involvement with him became romantic in nature using the same type of grooming technics that were employed by his first abuser.

The relationship dynamic that developed brought uncomfortable comments from Audrey Hurley's then husband and her daughter who regularly commented in a joking manner that Audrey Hurley was going to spend time with her boyfriend. These comments did not provide Audrey Hurley with the warning to check herself, her behavior, or stop her pursuit of her victim that culminated in Fellatio, and several sexual acts, including intercourse, starting when her victim was 15 and ended when he was 16 years old. Audrey Hurley quit her position at the school in early 2014 where she was employed as the investigations into these allegations were made.

Sentencing Synopsis:

The Court sentenced Audrey Hurley on the charge of contributing to the abuse of a child, a class one misdemeanor, to a sentence of three hundred and sixty days with two hundred and seventy days suspended. The Court further ordered that Hurley would serve sixty days

incarcerated in the Union County Jail, and thirty day under house arrest and under electronic monitoring. Audrey Hurley was also required to pay for the prosecution costs on Three Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars and Seventy-five cents. Hurley was also ordered to pay for home schooling expenses for the victim which to date are Seven Hundred and Seventeen dollars.

Criminal History:

This is a class one misdemeanor conviction for Audrey Hurley.