



*Douglas County
District Attorney*
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Man Convicted of Aggravated Sexual Battery and Child Molestation

Following a week-long trial, a Douglas County jury returned a verdict convicting thirty-six-year-old Diego Portilla of aggravated sexual battery and four counts of child molestation. The prosecution team was led by Assistant District Attorneys Tornear'e Wiggins and Victoria Hicks and investigated by the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. Superior Court Judge Cynthia Adams presided over the matter.

In January 2020, law enforcement was called to a local elementary school after a student had disclosed to the school counselor that their friend told them about their stepfather touching them inappropriately. This was after their class had attended a "good touch vs. bad touch" presentation at school. The 9-year-old victim disclosed to her friend that she had experienced "bad touch" with Diego Portilla. The Child Advocacy Center conducted a forensic interview with the victim once law enforcement began their investigation. During the interview, the victim described multiple incidents where the defendant had sexually assaulted her, with the most recent incident occurring only a few days prior. All the incidents occurred when the victim's mother was out of the house working. The victim stated she did not tell her mother due to fear of retaliation from the defendant.

The defendant was interviewed by law enforcement where he ultimately confirmed that he had molested the victim on multiple occasions and gave investigators further details of the incidents. Following his interview with law enforcement, Portilla was arrested and charged with multiple counts of child molestation and aggravated sexual battery.

Douglas County District Attorney Dalia Racine stated, "This child had the courage and ability to speak up to a friend about her abuse. Her friend was equally courageous in sharing this information with an adult. This case highlights why it is so important for parents and schools to have these difficult conversations about sexual abuse with our children."

After hearing all the evidence and testimony, the jury convicted Portilla of aggravated sexual battery and multiple counts of child molestation. Portilla faces a maximum punishment of life in prison plus 80 years. Sentencing will be at a later date.