

NEW RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Office April 12, 2022

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## Man Pleas Guilty to Multiple Counts of Child Molestation and Other Charges

On April 11, 2022, Michael Tuley entered a plea of guilty on multiple charges of child molestation, sexual battery, and sexual exploitation of a child and was sentenced by Judge Cynthia Adams. Assistant District Attorney Robert Schollmeyer prosecuted the case on behalf of State.

In September, 2019, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office received a report that a juvenile victim was being inappropriately touched by the defendant, Michael Tuley. This assault occurred in the garage of a Douglas County home. The victim stated that Tuley also took explicit photos of her on a cell phone. During the course of the investigation, investigators learned that Tuley touched the victim inappropriately in front of another juvenile.

"Based on the victim's courage to come forward and the diligent efforts of our Sheriff's office investigation, we are thankful that we were able to hold this abuser accountable for his horrific acts. The path to healing for this victim will be an ongoing journey. We are hopeful that this sentence will help this child in this process," said District Attorney Dalia Racine.

Tuley's computer equipment and cell phone were also seized after the Sheriff's Office obtained a search warrant. During a forensic analysis, it was determined that Tuley had accessed child sexual abuse material and downloaded the images to his phone. The defendant was charged with seven counts stemming from evidence collected during the investigation. These charges included: three counts of child molestation, two counts of sexual battery against a child under 16, and two counts of sexual exploitation of children.

District Attorney Racine stated, "The victims of child sexual abuse material, no matter how much time has passed, continue to be victimized every time an individual views the images of them being sexually assaulted. It is not a victimless crime and deserves to be recognized for the reality of the continuous devastation that occurs to those victimized in this manner. We believe that the sentence handed down does just that."

On March 21, 2022, Tuley entered his plea of guilty to the first five counts and then on April 11, 2022, entered a plea of guilty on the remaining counts. Judge Adams followed the District Attorney's sentence recommendation and sentenced Tuley to a total of 60 years with 45 years to be served in confinement.