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NEWS RELEASE

Date: Friday, April 1, 2022
From: Patricia W. Perlow, District Attorney
RE: Derrek Nelson and Kenneth Lancaster

On March 4, 2022 Derrek Nelson was convicted of four counts of Sodomy in the First Degree and four counts of Sexual Abuse in the First Degree of a child under the age of twelve after a jury trial. The jury heard that the victim was known to the defendant and that the defendant abused the child more than one time. After four days of evidence presentation and three hours of deliberations, Nelson was found guilty on all counts. At sentencing on March 29, 2022, the Lane County District Attorney's Office argued for a 50-year sentence for the defendant. Judge Charles Zennaché ultimately imposed to twenty-five years and lifetime post-prison supervision, requiring the defendant to register as a sex offender for life.

On April 1, 2022, Kenneth Lancaster was sentenced to 600 months in the Department of Corrections. The defendant had previously entered guilty pleas to Rape in the First Degree, Sodomy in the First Degree, Unlawful Sexual Penetration in the First Degree and Sex Abuse in the First Degree. Judge Jay McAlpin heard evidence presented in a contested sentencing regarding the long term sexual abuse of a child under twelve who was known to the defendant and sentenced the defendant to 50 years in the Oregon Department of Corrections, with lifetime post-prison supervision and lifetime sex offender registration.

Both of these cases were investigated by the Violent Crimes Unit at the Eugene Police Department. Kids First Center played an instrumental role these cases as well as the Lane County District Attorney Victim Services Program.

Child sexual abuse is one of the most difficult types of crime to prosecute, because these crimes do not occur in the public view and there are many barriers for children to report their abuse, particularly when their abuser is a person who is known to them. However, Lane County is fortunate to have a Multi-Disciplinary Team that works diligently on these very important cases to achieve justice for the victims of these crimes and we thank them for their efforts.

Last, the Lane County District Attorney's Office wishes to commend the victims in these cases for their courage in disclosing their abuse and their bravery in participating in the court process.

