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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Kendall County State's Attorney Eric Weis announced that Stephen Adams (dob: 4/22/63, 6911 Clearwater Dr) of Plainfield, Illinois has been convicted of Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse following a one-day bench trial before Judge Robert Pilmer. Charges against Adams stem from incidents which occurred over 20 years ago. In the late 1990s, Adams and his family met the then young victim and her family through a church in the suburbs. When the families got together, Adams paid extra attention to the young female victim, frequently flattering her and touching various parts of her body with his hands. On one occasion when the families got together at Adams' house in the Kendall County portion of Aurora when the victim was 16-years-old, Adams convinced her to meet him on the side of his house where he told the victim she was "pretty." He then rubbed her back and touched various parts of her body. Adams then tried to get the victim to touch a part of his body. The victim eventually disclosed the sexual abuse in 2018 after which a thorough police investigation resulted in charges against Adams in both Kendall County and Kane County.

At the sentencing hearing last week, Judge Pilmer heard testimony about how Adams had fondled another 16-year-old female foreign exchange student who was living with Adams and his family in Aurora in 2015-2016. Adams eventually pleaded guilty to Criminal Sexual Abuse for that conduct. During the recent sentencing hearing, the victim told Adams: "I never spoke *my* truth – I always spoke *the* truth, and I'm glad that held up despite all your best efforts to silence it."

As part of his recent sentence, Adams was sentenced to 4 years of sex offender probation and 90 days in the Kendall County Jail. Adams will also have to undergo sex offender specific counseling, he will have to pay more than \$26,000.00 in restitution to the victim for counseling and medication, and he will be required to register for 10 years as a sex offender. Charges in Kane County are still currently pending.

Weis commended Judge Pilmer's consideration of the evidence at trial and at the sentencing hearing. Weis also praised the hard work and dedication of the Aurora Police Department for their investigation and pursuit of justice for the victims of this crime. Weis also commended First Assistant Mark Shlifka for his efforts in securing the conviction and sentence.

Weis stated, "Child-victims of sexual abuse are the most vulnerable of victims. I applaud the courage of this victim to finally come forward to assure that justice was done."

Adams was represented by Attorney Philip Nathe.