



NEWS RELEASE

July 18, 2014

Contact: Sue Lindsay

Public Information

303-835-5639

Man Sentenced to 12 Years in Prison for Stabbing Teen in Bullying Incident

Noah Ledesma (DOB 07/17/1982) was sentenced to 12 years in prison Friday for stabbing a 15-year-old boy.

Ledesma pleaded guilty to second-degree assault causing serious bodily injury to Dakota Rigoulet in the October 24 attack. He faced a sentence of 5 to 16 years in prison.

Ledesma's nephew repeatedly had challenged Rigoulet to a fight for two days after the two teens argued on the school bus on October 23, according to court documents. The nephew again challenged Rigoulet to a fight on October 24 when they got off the school bus. Rigoulet refused and began walking home. The nephew confronted him two more times. He again was challenging Rigoulet to a fight as the teen continued to walk home when a car pulled up to them. Ledesma jumped out and stabbed Rigoulet in the side of his abdomen. Ledesma and his nephew jumped into the car and drove off.

Ledesma told police that he stabbed the teen, but his defense attorney told the court during the sentencing hearing that he had just punched the teen.

Rigoulet, who underwent surgery to repair damage from the stab wound, told the judge that he has nerve damage and severe pain on the right side of his body. He said the ordeal left him unable to trust people and said he doesn't feel safe when he leaves his home.

Adams County District Judge Thomas Ensor said he imposed the 12 year sentence in part because Ledesma took no responsibility for his actions which caused severe injuries to the teen. He said Ledesma needlessly turned a "mere confrontation between two teenage boys" into a life-threatening attack. "You have utterly failed to assume responsibility for your conduct," the judge told Ledesma.

"The defendant brought a knife into this situation and Dakota was severely injured as a result of that decision," said District Attorney Dave Young. "This was a senseless crime. We hope that Dakota now will have a sense that there is some justice for him. No one should have to go through what he did."

###