



**NEWS RELEASE**

April 19, 2017  
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**Former Elementary School Teacher Sentenced to 25 Years to Life for  
Sexual Assault on a Child**

Former Dupont Elementary School teacher Gilbert Joseph Trujillo was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison Wednesday for sexual assaults on two female students at the school between 2005 and 2011.

“This is every parent’s worst nightmare,” said District Attorney Dave Young. “School should be a safe zone for children, not a place where predators can take advantage of them. We are very satisfied with the court’s sentence. Mr. Trujillo will no longer be able to prey on young girls at school, where they are most vulnerable. He will be serving a life sentence and that is what he deserves.”

Trujillo (DOB 11/06/49) refused to appear in court for the sentencing hearing in Adams County District Court. “This speaks volumes about who he is. He is a child molester. His behavior is inexcusable,” said District Judge Robert Kiesnowski Jr. He does not have the human decency to come into this courtroom and apologize to these victims and ask their forgiveness. The court is frankly outraged.”

Trujillo was charged in June 2015 with sexually assaulting six girls between August 2004 and May 2011 when they were students at Dupont Elementary School, 7970 Kimberly St., where he taught third, fourth and fifth grade. The victims were 9, 10 and 11 years old. The charges were filed after lengthy investigation by the Adams County Sheriff’s Office Detective Division that began in November 2013.

“The defendant used his position as a teacher and the classroom itself to molest children for years from 2005 until 2011 when he finally retired,” Senior Deputy District Attorney Yvette Guthrie said at the hearing. “This kind of crime strikes at the very heart of the community because it strikes at children. These were 9 and 10-year-old little girls who deserved to enjoy this time in their lives and the innocence of what it is to be a child. He took that innocence and childhood from them the day he decided that his sick sexual needs come before his duty as a teacher.”

Trujillo was convicted in February of one count of sexual assault on a child by a person in a position of trust as a pattern of abuse (F3), one count of sexual assault on a child by a person in a

position of trust (F3) one count of attempted sexual assault by a person in a position of trust (F4) and one count of attempted sexual assault on a child (F5).

The victims testified that Trujillo established relationships with them. They said he gave them gifts including candy, stuffed animals and jewelry, wrote notes and "love letters" to them and arranged for them to be alone with him in his classroom at recess or after school, often with the blinds closed and the door locked. Several of the victims said that Trujillo hugged, kissed and touched them inappropriately on their buttocks, breasts and thighs. One victim testified that Trujillo had her sit on his lap and kissed her. One victim testified that he exposed himself and attempted to sexually assault her.

Trujillo was supposed to be sentenced Tuesday, but was taken to the hospital for treatment after he slammed his head against the wall where he was being detained before being brought into the courtroom. This took place after the judge granted a motion allowing cameras in the courtroom for the sentencing hearing.

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