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# 86-year-old sex offender sentenced to prison for incident involving 5-year-old

Shalom Baer Gee 22 hrs ago 2

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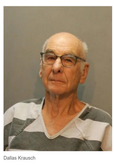
Dallas Krausch

An 86-year-old Rapid City man and convicted sex offender was sentenced to two years in prison Tuesday for asking a 5-year-old boy to touch his genitals in the steam room at the Roosevelt Swim Center in Rapid City on Nov. 11, 2022.

Dallas Krausch entered an Alford plea to sexual exploitation of a minor and loitering within a community safety zone or public area. An Alford plea is a defendant's acknowledgement that the state has enough evidence to convict while still maintaining their innocence.

"He's not admitting to the conduct," said his defense attorney Paul Andrews.

Both charges are class 6 felonies with a maximum sentence of two years in prison and up to a $4,000 fine. In exchange for the plea, the state dropped a charge of solicitation of a minor, which carried a maximum of up to 10 years in prison and up to a $20,000 fine.

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Senior Deputy Pennington County State's Attorney Jason Thomas asked Circuit Court Judge Robert Gusinsky to sentence Krausch to two years on each count to run consecutively.

Thomas noted Krausch's criminal history, which included sexual crimes dating back to the 1970s. At the time of the public pool incident, he was on the South Dakota sex offender registry for a 1986 conviction for sexual contact with a 12-year-old girl.

He called Krausch's story about what happened "ridiculous."

When he was initially confronted by staff at the pool, Krausch denied ever being in the steam room. He then admitted to being there, but said the situation was a misunderstanding.

Thomas said Krausch also claimed the father recognized him as a sex offender and conspired with his son to make up the story.

"I was in the wrong place at the wrong time," Krausch said in court.

Andrews asked the court to sentence Krausch to two years suspended and place him on probation with home confinement and electronic monitoring so he can get the medical care he needs while still meeting the goal of community safety.

"Mr. Krausch is 86 years old," Anderson said.

"The defendant is not the victim," Thomas said. "The victim is a 5-year-old child whose life has been irreparably damaged by the defendant's depraved sexual appetite."

Gusinsky sentenced Krausch to the maximum of two years on each count but ran the sentences concurrent to each other.

"The warning signs are all over his record, and I'm convinced he'll do it again," Gusinsky said.

The judge also said he was "perplexed" the Roosevelt Swim Center allowed Krausch, a registered sex offender, into the public pool.

The Journal reached out to City Attorney Joel Landeen and asked about the situation. Landeen referenced a South Dakota law that states no city, county municipality or township can restrict or mitigate community access for convicted sex offenders beyond what state law restricts them from.

"Let's be honest, if we had the option, we probably would ban people from various facilities if we could," Landeen said. "If that's what people want to see, they need to contact our legislature so our hands aren't kind of tied."

Currently, state law allows sex offenders into community safety zones such as a public pool or park, but they can't loiter there.

The state definition of loitering is "to remain for a period of time and under circumstances that a reasonable person would determine is for the primary purpose of observing or contacting minors."

As an example of loitering, Landeen said Krausch was kicked out of the library decades ago because he was consistently eating his lunch in the children's section and not checking out any books.

He said staff at the pool were aware of Krausch's status and he was being watched.

"They tried to observe and keep an eye on him and what he was doing, but the reality is, people like that are looking for opportunities," Landeen said.

South Dakota crime statistics, according to the Office of Attorney General

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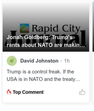
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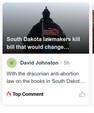
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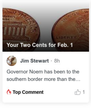
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By Shalom Baer Gee
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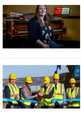
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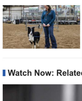
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