

85-year-old pedophile get prison

 Comments

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An 85-year-old man was sentenced to seven years in prison Wednesday for committing sex acts against a 14-year-old girl.

George Todd of Barrington used the girl's love of horses to take sexual advantage of her, Lake County Circuit Court Associate Judge Daniel Shanes said.

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Todd

"Sadly, what the defendant did happens all too often in this community. It is not too often done by an 85-year-old man," Shanes said.

Todd employed the girl at a pony ride amusement facility in Garden Prairie in Boone County. He befriended the teenager and promised to give her ponies in lieu of money in exchange for committing sex acts with her, according to Assistant State's Attorney Mary Kay Foy.

"(Todd) took a child's love for horses and distorted it for his own deviant purposes," Foy said.

She pointed out that multiple acts were committed between June and August 2009, even though Todd pleaded guilty to one offense, aggravated

criminal sexual assault, a Class 1 felony punishable by four to 15 years in prison.

Defense attorney David Kerstein asked Shanes to impose the minimum sentence possible, stating his client was in poor health and not likely to survive a long prison term.

"It is only a wish and a prayer that he survives any sentence the court imposes. This is not a death penalty case, but any jail time becomes a death sentence," Kerstein said.

Todd suffers from heart problems and arthritis, among other health issues, he said. He also pointed out that his client had no criminal history.

"I think he has done this before to someone else and I think he needs to be put away for a long time," the victim said in her victim-impact statement.

Todd expressed remorse for his actions in his statement to the judge.

"The only thing I can say is how sorry I am for this to have happened. I have no idea why," Todd said.