

Man with a doctorate gets 122 years for sexual assault of children

Jeffrey F. Dorsten was sentenced to a combined term of 122 years in prison on May 7, by 240th District Court Judge Thomas R. Culver.

Dorsten received 34 years in prison on each of three counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child and 10 years in prison on each of two counts of indecency with a child.

The 45-year old Richmond man was convicted for sexually abusing several neighborhood boys between 1998 and 2001.

Evidence presented by prosecutors Suzy Morton, chief of the District Attorney's Office Child Abuse Division, and Sherry Robinson, chief of the District Attorney's Office Misdemeanor Division, revealed that Dorsten had engaged in sexual contact with one of the boys at Dorsten's home and in another state when Dorsten visited his family.

He sexually abused another boy during the time the child's family lived in Dorsten's neighborhood. The third boy was victimized first in Tarrant County, and then later in Dorsten's home.

Dorsten provided gifts and other support to the children over the years. All boys who testified currently live out of state.

Testimony revealed Dorsten has a high IQ falling in the superior intellect range and is highly educated with a Ph.D. in chemistry. At the time of his arrest in October 2006, Dorsten was employed by a large international oil company. He was also involved



Dorsten

in many community youth activities.

Dorsten pleaded guilty to five indictments; however, the evidence and testimony indicated numerous additional offenses.

The versions of the abuse given by each of the three boys differed significantly from the defendant's.

Dorsten indicated the incidents were initiated by the boys' questions and curiosity about sex, but the boys denied his version of the events.

Dorsten attempted to justify his actions and minimize his role in the abuse.

A psychologist also testified during the hearing that this distorted thinking characterized Dorsten's deviancy and that he exhibits characteristics consistent with being a "fixated pedophile" — the most difficult type of sex offender to treat.

The abuse came to light when two of the boys alerted the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office in October 2006.

According to Morton and Robinson, excellent work by Detectives Russell Womble and Josh Dale resulted in the defendant making admissions during a phone conversation, and the skilled interviewing techniques of the detectives caused Dorsten to later reveal additional victims.

"I want to commend Sheriff Milton Wright for sending these dedicated men out of state to interview one of the victims," Morton said.

"The sensitivity and professionalism of the detectives facilitated the cooperation of the young men in this very difficult and emotional case," she said.

"Holding Dorsten accountable for his crimes and keeping him away from the public would never have been possible without the remarkable courage of the three children in this case. We are very proud of the three young men who testified as it took great courage to come forward and face their abuser," Robinson said.

"Jeffrey Dorsten is the most dangerous type of child predator in our society. He remained undetected because he was able to hide among us behind the good deeds he performed and his professional accomplishments," said Morton.

"We are grateful to the young men for bringing Jeffrey Dorsten to justice by coming back to Texas to testify about very painful experiences in their lives. They are successful in so many ways and an inspiration to other victims

and the rest of us," she said.

As of September 1, 2007, there is no longer a statute of limitations in Texas for sex offenses committed against children.

Generally speaking, cases having an offense date of September 1, 1987 or later can be prosecuted; there are some exceptions if the prior statute of limitations had expired prior to the new laws being enacted.

Morton said the majority of child victims do not tell right away; especially when they have been sexually abused by someone they know.

"We want children to know that no matter how long it takes for them to tell, what happened to them still matters, and we will do everything in our power to prosecute their abusers," said District Attorney John Healey.

Aggravated sexual assault of a child is a first degree felony punishable by 5 to 99 years or life in prison and a fine up to \$10,000. Indecency with a child is a second degree felony punishable by 2 to 20 years in prison and up to a \$6,000 fine.

Dorsten was eligible for probation. Attorney Don Bankston represented Dorsten.