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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 3rd, 2016
Contact: Kimberly Corban • kweeks@co.weld.co.us • 970.356.4010 ext. 4702
Re: Former Middle School Teacher Sentenced in Sex Assault on a Student

Greeley, CO – On Tuesday, May 3rd, the Honorable Judge Kopcow considered a plea agreement of the parties and sentenced Katerina Bardos (DOB 09/23/90) to seven years in the Department of Corrections with 5 years mandatory parole. She was awarded two days of time served. On March 3rd, Bardos plead guilty to Felony Child Abuse (F3) and Criminal Attempt to Commit Sexual Assault on a Child (F5). The possible sentencing range which was available to the Court under the plea agreement was from 4-20 years in the Department of Corrections.

According to police records, Ms. Bardos was a teacher at Brentwood elementary school when she met and formed a relationship with a then 12 year old male. She fostered a close relationship with his mother and sisters that was described by both parties during the sentencing hearing as “like family”. Bardos’ actions with the victim turned criminal in 2014 when she initiated an intimate relationship under the guise of being his mentor.

Judge Kopcow noted in his statement to the full courtroom on Tuesday that Ms. Bardos had admitted to having sex with the child between 40 and 50 times over the course of a year. Her friendship with his mother and sisters only reinforced the expectation that she hold herself to a high standard which she likewise gained by being in a position of trust.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Thea Carrasco, who prosecuted Bardos argued on behalf of the victim and community that had roles been reversed, the public would have been outraged at the crime.

“As prosecutors, we adhere to the law. A person’s background, race, gender, socioeconomic status, occupation, or ties to this community do not make them immune to being held responsible for their actions.” Rourke stated Tuesday following the conclusion of the hearing. “It is most unfortunate when someone we entrust with our or our children’s safety and well-being takes advantage of that inherent expectation.”

##WCDA##

The filing of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual(s) committed a crime(s) under Colorado laws. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. See Colo. RPC 3.6