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# W.S. man found guilty of sexual abuse of five girls

*Between 2007 and 2011*

Submitted photo

Harry Hintsala

Holly M. Gill  
May 16, 2012

A former Warm Springs police officer and child care worker was found guilty May 9 by a federal judge of sexually abusing five young girls.

Harry Hintsala, 62, of Warm Springs, who was initially charged with eight counts of aggravated sexual abuse and abusive sexual contact of minors, waived a jury trial and was found guilty by U.S. District Judge Michael Mosman of five counts of abusive sexual contact.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig Gabriel prosecuted the case, and presented evidence and testimony that Hintsala had sexually abused five girls at his residence on the

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Warm Springs Reservation between 2007 and 2011, when the victims were about 8 to 12 years old.

"Mr. Hintsala's abuse of these young girls not only violated the victims and their families, but also violated the trust of the Warm Springs community," said Amanda Marshall, U.S. attorney for the District of Oregon. "This office will continue to work with tribal police, tribal protective services and federal investigators to ensure that tribal children are protected from all forms of abuse."

At trial, Hintsala stipulated that the facts presented were sufficient for the judge to find him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Mosman scheduled Hintsala's sentencing for June 25. In the meantime, he is required to live at a halfway house, where he must wear a GPS monitoring bracelet at all times, and not have contact with minors.

Under the sentencing agreement, Hintsala is expected to receive the maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, followed by a lifetime of supervised release.

Besides working as a police officer in Warm Springs, Hintsala also worked as a supervisor at Warm Springs Child Protective Services and as a teacher at Warm Springs Head Start. The abuse cited in the case occurred after his retirement from those positions.

The Warm Springs Police Department and the Bend FBI office investigated the case.

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