

Former Mille Lacs County deputy and church volunteer faced sentencing Thursday in Otter Tail County | WDAY | Fargo, ND

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Otter Tail County, MN (WDAY TV) - After pleading guilty to charges related to the molestation of five children, a former Mille Lacs County deputy and church volunteer faced sentencing today in Otter Tail County.

Following a plea agreement, Aaron Heuer was given a series of concurrently running sentences that add up to 33 years of actual prison time.

But the sentencing itself was only a brief part of the three hour proceeding.

13 statements were read or delivered by victim family members, detailing the physical, mental and spiritual toll of the crimes.

Many asking the same question, who could they trust if not a uniformed, self-proclaimed man of faith.

Assistant Otter Tail County Attorney and prosecutor Michelle Eldien says the testimony had such impact she declined the opportunity to address the court before sentencing.

Michelle Eldien/Assistant Otter Tail County Attorney: "It's hard to say much more to go with that. I don't know what possibly I would have added to the court as far as understanding the impact it had on these families. And so, honestly, I think the agreement was reached with a lot of communication and a lot of effort to make sure it was the right thing for everybody here."

Heuer also addressed the court prior to sentencing.

He apologized to the victims and said that he is also a victim of sex abuse.

He told the victims to seek the support that alluded him.

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