



AMBIEN

Man planning 'Ambien defense' pleads guilty to Casper sex abuse

If accepted by judge, deal with prosecutors could mean no jail time



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A California man's planned "Ambien defense" will not go before a Natrona County jury.

Glynn Howard Johnson, who was [planning to assert](#) at trial that he molested a 10-year-old Casper girl in April 2012 while unconscious on a mix of Xanax and Ambien, pleaded guilty Wednesday afternoon to third-degree sexual abuse of a minor.

Johnson, 60, will receive probation as part of a plea agreement with Natrona County prosecutors. If he successfully completes probation, the charge

will be dismissed as part of a deferral agreement.

Johnson, a retired law enforcement officer with a minimal criminal history, pleaded guilty through an Alford plea. That means he does not admit to committing the crime but recognizes he would likely be convicted at trial because of the strength of the state's evidence.

Previously, Johnson's attorney, Tom Fleener, had planned to assert a defense of automatism. That is when a defendant claims unconsciousness during the time he or she committed the alleged act.

That defense may have hinged on convincing the jury that Johnson was involuntarily intoxicated -- taking medications as prescribed by a doctor -- when he committed the abuse.

It's not clear if Johnson was following his prescription guidelines, however, as he allegedly told police he may have taken more than one Ambien the night of the crime.

The crime occurred April 19, 2012, when Johnson was staying at the victim's house.

During that night, the victim told investigators that Johnson had rubbed her vagina and asked her to take her shorts off. He also asked her how it felt, she told an interviewer with the Children's Advocacy Project.

Johnson initially denied the allegations to the victim's family, saying he had only rubbed the victim's back. Later, however, he sent a string of text messages to the victim's father saying he didn't know exactly what had happened but that he would have to "live with that till the day (he dies)."

Johnson, who is free on \$10,000 bond, spoke in court Wednesday only to answer procedural questions and plead guilty.

His trial was originally scheduled for October 2013, but it was repeatedly delayed as each side prepared its case.

He will be sentenced in 60 to 75 days following a routine presentence investigation. If Judge Catherine Wilking accepts the plea agreement, Johnson would receive only probation and face possible monetary restitution to the victim.

If he completes probation, which could range from one to five years, the charge would be dismissed, meaning typical penalties linked to felonies and sex offenses – like the restriction on carrying a firearm and the necessity to register as a sex offender – would not apply.