

Logan man pleads guilty to child sex abuse in case prosecutors call 'almost unbelievable'

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2014 cop pedophile

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Day two of a jury trial that was expected to be nothing short of gruesome ended abruptly this morning when the defendant, Cody C. Smith of Logan, pleaded no contest to two counts of aggravated sexual abuse of a child.

When he is sentenced in March, prosecutors say they intend to ask Judge Brian Cannell for two consecutive terms of six years to life at the Utah State Prison.

Prosecutor Barbara Lachmar said the credit goes to Smith's attorney, Susanne Gustin, who continued to work with her client and asked the County Attorney's Office to consider a settlement in the case.

"The evidence in this case was overwhelming," Lachmar said.

Testimony was set to begin at 9 a.m. this morning, but jurors were kept waiting for two hours during talks between Gustin, her client and prosecutors.

Gustin said she made one last effort to see if Smith wanted to continue with the trial, and Smith ultimately decided to accept the plea deal offered to him.

"He felt it was the best thing for himself, and he didn't necessarily want to put [the remaining victims] on the stand," Gustin said.

Smith, 40, was on trial to face numerous counts of rape of a child, object rape, criminal solicitation, forcible sexual abuse, and unlawful sexual activity with a minor.

He was taken into custody Tuesday after entering his plea.

Lachmar said one of those counts alone carried a possible sentence of 25 years to life.

The abuse reportedly took place over a two-year span of time, when the victims were in their early teens.

According to court documents, Smith not only engaged in inappropriate sexual activity with one alleged victim, he also facilitated sexual activities between that alleged victim and four other individuals. Those persons are also juveniles and being treated as additional victims. Some of the

encounters were captured on video.

One of the victims testified Monday that he felt like he would not be allowed to leave Smith's apartment if he did not comply with his demands. Another recounted a day when Smith became quite argumentative and doubtful that his wishes had been followed.

Smith is a former reserve police officer who worked for the Logan City Police Department several years ago, so his case was investigated by Utah State University police.

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