



**NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TOMAH MAN TO SERVE TWO DECADES FOR CHILD SEX CRIMES**

SPARTA, Wis. – Monroe County District Attorney Kevin Croninger announced today that James Ossinger, age 57, was sentenced to 24 years in prison by Monroe County Circuit Court Judge Richard Radcliffe. The sentence was in connection with Ossinger's repeated sexual assault of children and possession of child pornography. After Ossinger is released from prison at age 80, he will be supervised by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections for 45 years and will be required to register as a sexual offender.

Court records indicate Ossinger sexually assaulted three children between the ages of seven and eleven as they slept at his Tomah home between 2021 and 2024. Authorities began investigating Ossinger after information was received that Ossinger uploaded recordings of him assaulting the victims to a cloud storage service. Hundreds of images and recordings of child pornography, some which depicted unidentified infants, were ultimately recovered from Ossinger's storage service. After conviction, Ossinger faced a minimum of three years in prison and a maximum sentence of 120 years in prison.

The Department of Corrections recommended Ossinger be sent to prison for 15 to 18 years and then be on supervised release for 9 to 12 years. Chief Assistant District Attorney Sarah Skiles argued Ossinger should be sentenced to 72 years in prison. She argued a lesser sentence would diminish the gravity and scope of Ossinger's "grotesque" abuse which was perpetrated when the victims were at their most vulnerable. She said a sentence resulting in effect lifetime confinement was necessary to protect the community from Ossinger.

This matter was investigated by Detective Kirk Bedenbaugh of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. Skiles acknowledged his commitment to this case, "The investigation of this case required extraordinary professionalism in the face of deeply disturbing and troubling facts. We appreciate investigators like Det. Bedenbaugh who must review horrific materials in order to bring individuals like Mr. Ossinger to justice."

Ossinger currently faces similar criminal charges in the State of Illinois for conduct from the same time frame. Ossinger is presumed innocent in the Illinois matter unless or until proven guilty.



**Photo: Monroe County Sheriff's Office**

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