



JACKSON COUNTY

Oregon

**Jackson County District
Attorney's Office**

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MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release

The Jackson County District Attorney's Office announced this morning that Noah Berman was sentenced to a total of ninety (90) days jail with twenty-four (24) months prison suspended. Mr. Berman will be on supervised probation for a total of five (5) years. If he is revoked from probation or if he fails to complete any required conditions of his probation, he will be required to serve the suspended twenty-four-month sentence in the Oregon Department of Corrections. Mr. Berman previously pled guilty to two counts of Sex Abuse in the Second Degree and one count of Tampering with a Witness for conduct stemming from a 2020 Medford Police investigation. Mr. Berman previous pled guilty to the above counts on July 20, 2021, and sentencing was held over by the Court until today.

Mr. Berman, then a South Medford High School teacher, had an ongoing and inappropriate sexual relationship with one of his underage students. For several months Mr. Berman engaged in inappropriate messaging, which led to outside-of-school meet-ups with his victim. As the abuse progressed, Mr. Berman made physical contact with the victim to include sexually touching the child. The abuse was reported to SafeOregon, an anonymous online platform designed for students, parents, and staff to report safety threats observed while at school.

Digital evidence, including cell phones and computers, were seized and searched by the Southern Oregon High Tech Crimes Task Force. Corroborating evidence was obtained from those devices. Mr. Berman was placed on administrative leave, and at that time, told his victim to lie about their relationship to law enforcement.

In addition to his jail sanction Mr. Berman was ordered to forfeit his teaching license, pay restitution, and register as a sex offender for life. The case against Mr. Berman was investigated by the Medford Police Department and the Southern Oregon High Tech Crimes Task Force.

When determining the sentencing recommendation, the District Attorney's office must work within the statutory confines set forth by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission's Sentencing Guidelines, which considers crime seriousness of all felonies (i.e. Measure 11, Class A, B, or C felonies or Unclassified felonies). Although a Class C Felony has a statutory maximum of five years prison, the sentencing guidelines limit the actual sentence. When recommending a sentence in any given case, the District Attorney's office is bound by the sentencing guidelines and considers the severity of the crime, the defendant's criminal history, the victim's input, and other relevant factors to the case at issue. Here, Mr. Berman had no criminal history and was an 'I' on the sentencing grid. His maximum exposure in this case is 24 months in prison with the balance of 5 years of post-prison supervision.

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