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## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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### ROCHESTER MAN FOUND GUILTY OF CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT

REDWOOD FALLS, MN --- A Redwood County jury found Jaisden Harold Dru Hanners, 33, guilty of five counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct in the Second Degree. The jury deliberated for approximately four hours on August 16, 2024, before delivering the guilty verdicts around 7:30 p.m.

According to evidence gathered during the investigation and testimony over the course of four days at trial, on May 1, 2016, Victim, who was 10 years old, was alone with Hanners at their residence located in the City of Redwood Falls. In the middle of the night, Victim woke up to Hanners, who was her Mother's boyfriend at the time, intoxicated and in bed with her. While in bed with Victim, Hanners touched her intimate parts. Victim, scared and confused, left her bed and called her grandfather to pick her up.

After May 1, 2016, Hanners continued to sexually assault Victim while they resided together in Victim's grandparents' home located on the Lower Sioux Indian Community. The sexual assaults continued until October of 2016. The sexual assaults would occur while Hanners watched movies with Victim in his bedroom. While watching movies, Hanners would place Victim on his lap and touch Victim's intimate parts under her clothing.

In April 2017, Hanners, while he was alone with Victim, who was age 11, at a residence within the City of Redwood Falls sexually assaulted her. Hanners had Victim sleep in his bed with him while her mother was gone. Victim, again, woke up to Hanners hands underneath her clothing touching her intimate parts. Hanners told Victim, "I thought you were your mom" and "don't tell your mom, I will tell her".

In the years following the sexual assaults, Hanners gave Victim marijuana, gabapentin, and wine. Hanners read and stole Victim's journals after he discovered she wrote about the sexual assaults.

Shannon Ness, Assistant Redwood County Attorney, who prosecuted the case, told the jury in her closing argument, "Every time Defendant sexually assaulted Victim, her mother was out of the home. Defendant had full and complete access to Victim with the assurance there was no one there to protect her from him. By taking her journals, he was keeping her quiet. But he was not able to keep her silent forever."

Hanners will be sentenced on October 14, 2024, at the Redwood County Courthouse.

If you or someone you know have been a victim of sexual assault there are multiple local resources available including: Women's Rural Advocacy Program, New Horizon's Crisis Center, Minnesota Indigenous Women's Society, and Redwood County Attorney Crime Victim Services. For more information about these local resources for victims visit our website: <https://redwoodcounty-mn.us/crime-victim-services/> or contact Denise Kerkhoff, Crime Victim Services Coordinator at 507-637-1399.