

NEWS RELEASE**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****ON March 25, 2010**

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COEUR D'ALENE MAN SENTENCED TO POSSIBLE LIFE SENTENCE FOR TWO COUNTS OF LEWD CONDUCT WITH A MINOR UNDER THE AGE OF SIXTEEN

Kyle Richard West, 41, of Coeur d'Alene, was sentenced yesterday to serve up to life in state prison for two counts of lewd conduct with a minor under the age of sixteen, the Kootenai County Prosecuting Attorney's Office announced today. West was sentenced by District Judge John T. Mitchell who ordered that the first four years of the sentence would be fixed, and the remaining life sentence is indeterminate, with credit for three days served in jail. He was also ordered to pay \$375.50 in fees and costs. As a result of his convictions, West will be required to register as a sex offender in the county in which he lives after release from prison.

West pleaded guilty to the charges on February 4, 2010. In determining that a prison sentence was appropriate in this matter, Judge Mitchell considered West's lack of remorse and inability or unwillingness to acknowledge the damage cause his victims.

Prosecuting Attorney Barry McHugh praised the work of the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department in conducting the investigation, and Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Art Verharen, who prosecuted the cases. McHugh noted that "Mr. West's failure to accept responsibility for his actions and acknowledge the damage he caused victims supports Judge's Mitchell's concerns that Mr. West continues to be a risk to the community. Mr. West has an opportunity to seek and benefit from counseling while in prison so that he can avoid victimizing children in the future. If

he is unable to comply with the terms of supervision, Judge Mitchell's sentence allows for him to be removed from society for the rest of his life. That is an appropriate result for someone that victimizes our most vulnerable citizens."

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