

NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
ON DECEMBER 14, 2011**

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**COEUR D'ALENE MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR UP TO LIFE FOR LEWD
CONDUCT WITH A MINOR UNDER THE AGE OF SIXTEEN**

The Kootenai County Prosecuting Attorney's Office announced today that Nicholas James Ryan, 32, of Coeur d'Alene was sentenced yesterday to serve up to life in state prison for lewd conduct with a minor under the age of sixteen. He was also sentenced to prison for a fixed term of two and a half years for intimidating and/or influencing the attendance of a witness, which will run concurrently with the lewd conduct sentence. Ryan was sentenced by District Judge John T. Mitchell, who ordered that the first five years of the lewd conduct sentence would be fixed, and the remaining life sentence would be indeterminate, with credit for time served.

On October 31, 2011, Ryan plead guilty to the offenses. The lewd conduct charge related to his genital to genital contact with a 14 year old girl. The intimidating/influencing a witness offense related to his post-arrest communication with the lewd conduct victim despite a court order precluding such communication. Ryan has been convicted of three prior felony offenses, all of which were drug related.

Prosecuting Attorney Barry McHugh praised the work of the Coeur d'Alene Police Department, and Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Josh Studor, who prosecuted the case. McHugh noted that "the sentence was appropriate given the defendant's post-arrest conduct indicating a

desire to continue an illegal and immoral relationship, and his efforts to coerce the victim to lie about the relationship. The fixed term guarantees that Mr. Ryan will not be able to victimize other children or commit other offenses for a period of years, and even if released from prison he will be subjected to continuing supervision."

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