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AURORA MAN GETS 50-YEAR SENTENCE FOR SEXUALLY ASSAULTING YOUNG GIRL FOR 8 YEARS

November 30, 2012

An Aurora man will spend most of the rest of his life in prison for sexually preying on and sexually assaulting a young girl he knew.

Pedro Terrazas, 36 (d.o.b. 3-14-1976), of the 1100 block of Pleasant Place, Aurora, was sentenced today by Associate Judge James C. Hallock to 50 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Terrazas was convicted Aug. 9, 2012, by a Kane County jury, of two counts of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child, each a Class X felony, five counts of criminal sexual assault, each a Class 1 felony, and five counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse, each a Class 2 felony.

Beginning in 2002 and continuing until August 2010, Terrazas had sexual contact with a young girl he knew. The assaults took place nearly every week day when Terrazas was alone with the child while the victim's mother was at work. The girl was spared from the assaults during weekends because her mother was home. Terrazas was the victim's caretaker during the abuse. The assaults ended when the victim disclosed them to a family member, who then contacted authorities. The victim was younger than 13 when the sexual assaults began.

The sentence is:

- Ten years each for the two Class X predatory criminal sexual assault counts, to be served consecutive to one another (total of 20 years)
- Five years each for the five Class 1 criminal sexual assault counts, to be served consecutive to one another and consecutive to the Class X counts (total of 25 years)
- Five years each for the five Class 2 criminal sexual abuse counts, to be served concurrent to one another but consecutive to the Class X and Class 1 counts (total of 5 years)

Terrazas must serve at least 85 percent of the terms on the Class X and Class 1 counts. Terrazas is eligible for day-for-day credit on the terms on the Class 2 counts. Terrazas was given credit for at least 833 days served in the Kane County jail.

The case was prosecuted by Kane County Assistant State's Attorneys Debra Bree and Bill Engerman, and investigated by the Kane County Child Advocacy Center and the Aurora Police Department.

"Because of this victim's willingness to speak out and tell her story to authorities and to a jury, a sexual predator has been removed from our community and is no longer a threat to our vulnerable children. We are hopeful that other children who are victims of sexual assault understand that if they have the courage to come forward and tell their story, someone will listen. And we will seek to hold the abuser responsible," Kane County State's Attorney Joe McMahon said. "This is a despicable crime committed by someone who had the responsibility to watch over and protect a young child."