



ELLIS COUNTY & DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Former Grand Prairie Teacher Sentenced for Relationship with Student

Ellis County and District Attorney Ann Montgomery announced that Matthew Ramos, 34, of Midlothian, Texas, was sentenced to fifteen years in prison for improper relationship between a teacher and student, and ten years in prison with a \$2,000 fine for online solicitation of a child.

In the Fall 2021, Ramos was a middle school teacher in the Grand Prairie Independent School District. He began a relationship with a former student who was then 16 years old and in high school. Ramos asked for her number and began texting inappropriately with the student. Ramos and the student exchanged sexual photos and texts, which culminated in them kissing in his classroom. The high school and middle school buildings were connected and on the same campus. In October 2021, other students in the school started whispering about Ramos having a relationship with a student, and school administration got involved.

Ramos talked to law enforcement, but he gave different versions of what happened. At first, he denied any improper relationship. Then he changed his story and told officers he was in love with the student, but that no nude photos of the child were ever exchanged. Ramos showed the officers a new tattoo sleeve on his arm symbolizing his relationship with the student, and how he gave the child a promise ring.

Detectives downloaded a copy of Ramos's phone and found explicit messages and nude photos of the child that had been sent between him and the student. They also found messages where Ramos told the student he wanted to bring a gun into the school to take care of the girls who told the administration about their relationship. Many of these messages and images were sent by Ramos when he was in Midlothian, which is why the offenses could be prosecuted in Ellis County.

Ramos pled guilty to the offenses on July 19, 2023. On September 21, 2023, after hearing testimony from the student and her mother, a co-worker, a detective, Ramos's

family members, and Ramos, Judge Cindy Ermatinger of the 443rd District Court sentenced Ramos to 15 years in prison for the improper relationship with a student charge and ten years in prison for the online solicitation charge. Improper relationship with a student is a second-degree felony with a punishment range of 2-20 years in prison. Online solicitation as charged is a third-degree offense with a punishment range of 2-10 years in prison. The sentences will run concurrently.

“Teachers hold a position of power and trust over our most vulnerable citizens: our children. When that trust is broken, it affects the child, the school, and the fabric of our community.” said Montgomery. “Our office and the Court made clear by this verdict that those who would twist their responsibility to protect children into a sexual perversion will be punished and sent to a place where they do not have access to potential child victims.”

Felony Chief Prosecutor Grace Pandithurai and Felony Prosecutor Kayce Witt tried the punishment case, assisted by Felony Prosecutor Ashley Indelicato and Investigator Joseph Aguilar. The case was investigated by Detective Hannah Orosco and Brandon Poor of the Grand Prairie Police Department.

