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Man Convicted of Sexually Assaulting Woman While Drunk

April 15, 2014- Tamuning, Guam - About two weeks ago, a 30 year-old man was found guilty of third degree criminal sexual conduct as a second degree felony. Although the trial lasted two weeks and the People called ten witnesses, the Superior Court Jury took less than an hour to convict Herbert F. Ignacio of his alcohol-facilitated sexual assault.

One evening back in 2013, two female cousins and their boyfriends got together for a night of drinking- a night like any other when friends and families get together and engage in alcohol. Multiple shots of whiskey were consumed. One female- the resident of where the incident took place-went inside and fell asleep in bed. The other female, her boyfriend, and Ignacio continued drinking. After some time, the boyfriend of the victim leaves to get clothes for work the following day and tells the victim he would return shortly.

After he departs, the victim went to the bathroom where she fell asleep. Upon her boyfriend's return, she awoke to find herself lying on the living room couch with her shorts and underwear pulled down to the mid portion of her thighs. The victim did not recall having intercourse with anyone, although both she and her boyfriend agreed her genital area smelled of semen. Ignacio was twice confronted by the victim's boyfriend, who both times denied having sex with her.

The victim and her boyfriend immediately reported the incident to Guam Police and then proceeded to Healing Hearts for examination and testing.

"It is critical that we inform the public of this case because it is a situation in which many people can find themselves. We hang out with family and friends-people we trust- and consume alcohol. Adults over the age of twenty-one can find themselves taken advantage of and sexually assaulted while they are inebriated," said Attorney General Leonardo M. Rapadas.

"The success of prosecuting this alcohol-facilitated sexual assault underscores the vitality of early reporting by rape victims and the collaboration between involved governmental agencies," said Assistant Attorney General Teri Tenorio, who prosecuted the case.

In this case, Healing Hearts Crisis Center collected and initiated the chain of custody for the physical evidence. The Forensic Science Division (FSD) of the Guam Police Department (GPD) initially processed and analyzed the evidence and subsequently sent it to the Federal Bureau of Investigations Laboratory for further DNA analysis.

"I cannot emphasize the collaboration between agencies, specifically, GPD and our office; GPD went the extra mile and were critical for this conviction," Tenorio said.

Ignacio faces up to 8 years imprisoned at the Department of Corrections.

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