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Courageous Victim and Attentive Family Members Put Predator Behind Bars

Hagåtña, Guam- On Friday, November 30, 2012, a Superior Court Jury found Luke Allen Pangelinan Taitano guilty of second degree criminal sexual conduct as a first degree felony and an included offense of attempted second degree criminal sexual conduct as a first degree felony for inappropriately touching his 10-year-old victim on more than one occasion while she was asleep.

Between 2008 and 2011, while sleeping, the victim would feel fingers touching her private parts outside of her clothing. The victim knew it was Taitano because he had sexually assaulted her other times and she would tell him “no.”

“I’d like to thank the victim for her courageousness throughout the judicial process, especially in testifying,” said Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Lisa Hack.

“What makes this case especially significant is that the parents and close family members were attentive to the behavioral changes in the victim; they noticed that the victim was acting out abnormally and took immediate action by reporting it to law enforcement authorities, got the victim into counseling and built a strong support group for her,” said Attorney General Leonardo M. Rapadas.

“Without the assistance of AAG Elizabeth Vasiliades and Investigator Macalma, the evidence and prosecution of this case would not have been possible. I’d also like to recognize our Victims Witness Ayuda Services Advocates who did a wonderful job with assisting the victim and her family throughout the case,” Hack said.

Taitano faces 3 to 15 years imprisonment and his sentencing is scheduled for January 03, 2013.

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