



City of Grinnell
...Jewel of the Prairie

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July 18, 2020
MEDIA RELEASE
RE: Sexual Abuse Arrest

On August 11, 2011 the Grinnell Police Department received a report of a sexual assault that had occurred the day prior. The victim was treated at Grinnell Regional Medical Center where evidence was collected.

On May 23, 2018, as part of Iowa's Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (S.A.K.I.), evidence recovered in 2011 was sent to the S.A.K.I. coordinator for analysis. On or about June 18, 2019, the Grinnell Police Department was notified by the Iowa Department of Criminal Investigation (DCI) that a positive DNA hit had been obtained through the Combined DNA Index System (C.O.D.I.S.).

Detective Matt Moore was assigned to follow up on this investigation. Based on Moore's investigation, which included receiving assistance from North Dakota law enforcement agencies, on or about October 8, 2019 Detective Moore applied for an arrest warrant on Cody John Petersen, age 33 of Devils Lake, North Dakota, for the following offense:

- Sexual Abuse 3rd Degree – Class 'C' Felony

On July 16, 2020 Mr. Petersen was taken into custody by members of the Grinnell Police Department, at the Stutsman County Correctional Facility in Jamestown, North Dakota, after his extradition to Iowa was authorized under the Uniform Criminal Extradition Act (Iowa Chapter 820). Mr. Petersen had been previously arrested by law enforcement authorities in Stutsman County on the Grinnell warrant. Mr. Petersen was transported to the Poweshiek County Jail, where he is currently lodged.

In November of 2018 the Grinnell Police Department, in pursuit of creating operating policy based on industry best practice, instituted a policy whereby open sexual abuse cases are reviewed on a periodic basis, at least annually, by an identified group that is independent of the investigation process. Generally this group includes sexual abuse advocates, a representative of the County Attorney's Office and members of the Poweshiek County Sexual Abuse Response Team. The review includes an analysis of: case dispositions; decisions to collect biological evidence and submissions of biological evidence for lab testing.

Anyone with information on this investigation is asked to contact Sergeant Matt Moore at 641-236-2670 (x3228).

A criminal charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.