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For Immediate Release:

Highlands Ranch Minister Convicted of Sexual Assault on a Child

Sentencing set for May 16, 2025

Castle Rock, CO - On February 27th, 2025, a jury found 42-year-old Richard Merskin guilty of sexual assault on a child under the age of 15 by a person in a position of trust. The victim is Merskin's daughter; and prosecutors showed the assaults were part of a pattern of abuse.

"The victim, her sibling, and her mother showed incredible strength when they testified. Justice would not be possible without their bravery in speaking up and bringing the defendant's actions to light," said 23rd Judicial District Deputy DA Abby Hegarty. "Justice was served," added Chief Deputy DA Danielle Jaramillo.

Merskin was a minister with "The River" in Highlands Ranch. Deputies from the Douglas County Sheriff's Office arrested Merskin in July of 2023. District Attorney George Brauchler applauded the jury verdict, saying, "this should send a message to child predators in Douglas County, and anywhere in our district, that your actions will not be tolerated. You will be caught and held accountable for your actions."

Sentencing will take place May 16th. Merskin faces a minimum of 8 in prison, and a maximum of 48 years to life.

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