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Lakewood Man Sentenced to 60 Years for Sexual Assaults on Children in Douglas County

Castle Rock, CO –A former teacher who sexually assaulted multiple children in his care has been sentenced to 60 years in the Colorado Department of Corrections

28-year-old Christopher Ballard from Lakewood worked as a teacher and “guide” at the Journey Academy, a Centennial private school and had been employed there since 2021.

In March of 2024, parents contacted the Parker Police Department after learning their child had been sexually assaulted. School administrators also reached out to authorities immediately after hearing the allegations.

A school spokesman said Journey Academy had conducted a full background check on Ballard prior to his hiring. That included sexual awareness and prevention training. Investigators received additional reports that Ballard had inappropriately touched students and exposed them to pornography. The Douglas County Sheriff’s Office later identified additional victims.

Ballard was arrested in his Lakewood home and charged with nearly two dozen counts of sex offenses against 12 named child victims. As part of a plea agreement, he pleaded guilty to two counts of 1st degree assault with a sexual basis. The court imposed a 60-year sentence.

“I am incredibly proud of the tireless work of our Special Victims Unit detectives, as well as the District Attorney’s Office for their relentless pursuit of justice,” said Douglas County Sheriff Darren Weekly.

Chief Deputy DA Danielle Jaramillo said the lengthy prison term brings a small measure of closure to the victims and their families. “This defendant is a monster who abused his position of trust to victimize children,” said Jaramillo. “While no sentence can undo the trauma these children endured, the outcome brings a measure of justice and ensures he will never be able to hurt another child.”

Senior Deputy District Attorney Abby Hegarty emphasized the office’s commitment to protecting children and holding offenders accountable. “There is absolutely no place in society for people who prey on children,” Hegarty said. “These crimes leave lifelong scars, and our office will relentlessly pursue justice for victims and their families.”

District Attorney George Brauchler said the sentence sends a clear message to child predators. “Prisons exist, in part, for teachers and caregivers who violate parents’ trust in them and their obligation to protect our children,” said Brauchler. “We will continue our pursuit and aggressive prosecution of those in a position of trust who view our children as objects of lust. If we could have secured more than six decades in prison without re-traumatizing the young victims through a trial in this case, we would have.”

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