

Case Timeline: CR22-25-0305

The information presented here comes from the publicly available record for a felony criminal case filed in Fremont County.

This case involved both the use of mediation and a “binding” plea agreement. For more information on these topics, please see the Q&A at right.

Feb. 14,
2025

A criminal complaint is filed for one count of lewd conduct with a minor child under 16, a felony under Idaho Code section 18-1508. The defendant makes his first appearance in court.

Media and members of the public interested in learning about decisions made in specific court cases are invited to access the record of those cases to understand what occurred.

A variety of court records are available for inspection under Idaho Court Administrative Rule 32, including orders and judgments of a court and audio recordings of all trials and hearings that are open to the public. That same court rule includes the process for requesting such records through the clerk of the relevant district court.

April 3,
2025

The parties again ask to delay the preliminary hearing, this time citing mediation planned for May 8. The judge again grants the request.

Feb. 24,
2025

The parties ask to reschedule the preliminary hearing in the case. At a preliminary hearing, a magistrate judge determines if there is probable cause to advance a felony charge to district court and a full trial. In this case, the judge grants the request to delay the hearing.

May 8,
2025

The prosecution and the defense meet for mediation in front of a different judge. Both sides reach an agreement: The defendant agrees to plead guilty to two felony counts of injury to a child under Idaho Code section 18-1501. The defendant also agrees to serve probation and to serve prison time if he violates that probation. Prosecutors agree to dismiss a separate case. Under Idaho law, the defendant cannot be required to register as a sex offender for the new charges.

The judge who oversaw the mediation formally accepts the guilty plea.

Aug. 26,
2025

A third judge — who would have received the case for trial — sentences the defendant on the new charges. Because the parties agreed to a “binding” plea agreement, the district judge is not able to modify it. However, the parties can argue what the length of the probation and prison terms should be.

After listening to their arguments, the judge chooses to accept the plea deal. He puts the defendant on probation for eight years with 180 days in jail to be served now, and a possible 10-year prison sentence in the future.

What is Criminal Mediation?

Mediation is an increasingly common tool for resolving court cases, including those with criminal charges. Some attorneys see mediation as a way to avoid the uncertainty of trial or to protect a victim from having to testify in court.

Only an active or retired Idaho state judge can mediate a criminal case. If the prosecutors and the defense reach an agreement, it is handled similarly to any other plea deal.

How Do Plea Agreements Work?

A defendant in a criminal case can decide to plead guilty in exchange for certain promises from the prosecutor. Examples of these promises include suggesting a certain sentence or agreeing to drop specific charges.

In some plea agreements, the parties only agree to suggest a certain outcome to the judge. For these pleas, a judge is not required to follow the terms of the plea agreement.

Other plea agreements are considered “binding.” This means the judge can only choose to accept the agreement or reject the entire plea. If the judge chooses the second option, the case resumes course toward a trial.

What Goes Into A Sentencing?

Judges when issuing a sentence must follow guidelines in Idaho law.

Idaho Code section 19-2521 sets the overall goals for a criminal sentence. These include protecting society, rehabilitating the defendant, and the impact on the victim.

A judge must also consider all relevant information that is presented in court. In the case described in this timeline, court minutes show the judge considered the victim’s statements, the age and criminal history of the defendant, and research into whether the defendant is likely to commit new crimes, among other things.