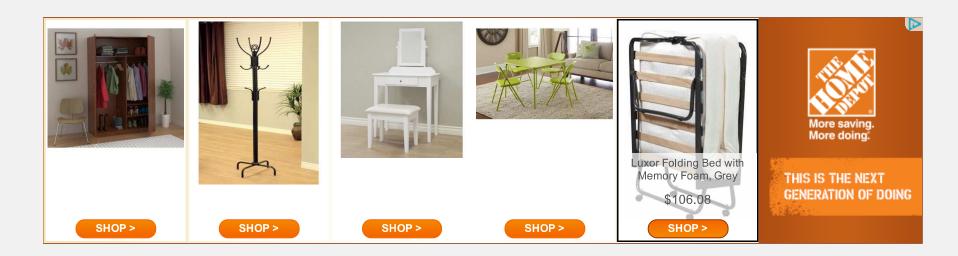








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NEWS

Jehovah's Witness unmasked as 'sly paedophile' who abused girl, 14

The family man was seen with the girl in a van in a remote lane









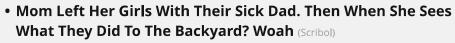
BY DEREK BELLIS

14:19, 23 DEC 2016 | **UPDATED** 14:22, 23 DEC 2016



The case was heard at Caernarfon Crown Court (Photo: Google Streetview)





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MOTORS PROPERTY DIRECTORY FAMILY NOTICES TRAVEL DATING BOOK AN AD BUYSELL PHOTOS

A senior Jenovan's witness has been unmasked as a "siy paedophile" who abused a 14-year-old girl in the back of a van.

Family man Daniel Arthington, who is an elder and preacher in the religious order, groomed and snared his "young prey", a court was told.



inRead invented by Teads

The 46 year old was caught when a local builder had noticed a van parked on occasions on a remote lane near a rugby club.

Becoming suspicious he told a friend who was a police officer who arrived and could hear voices from the back of the van, "with noises consistent with sexual activity."

Anna Pope, prosecuting, told Caernarfon Crown Court: "He waited for about 20 minutes during which he saw the van rocking from side to side, and the prosecution say this was the defendant involved in sexual activity with a child."

"Arthington got back into the front of the van, appearing short of breath, and the policeman asked the passenger to get out."

'Tell him you're 19'

The court heard Arthington said to the girl: "Tell him you're 19, I've already told him."

When asked for her date of birth the girl admitted she was 14 and on his way to the police station Arthington declared: "I'm dead."

Miss Pope said there was a mattress and sheet in the back of the van.

In an impact statement the girl said she now felt sad and depressed, had lost weight and couldn't sleep.

Her family was now considering whether to move.

Simon Rogers, defending, said his client's family was standing by Arthington.

"He's deeply ashamed of what he has done and has let down himself and his family."

"He's been married 27 years with two children."

References described him as "hard working, kind and compassionate."

Arthington, of Llanddaniel, Anglesey, pleaded guilty to having sexual activity with a girl of 14.



▶ Jehovah's Witness elder jailed for raping a fellow worshipper and sexually abusing vulnerable schoolgirls

Judge: 'Your fall from grace is substantial'



"I'm satisfied there was an element of grooming involved in your successful attempt in snaring your young prey.

"Your fall from grace is substantial but you have nobody to blame but yourself."

A Sexual Harm Prevention Order was imposed whose terms ban any contact with the girl and he must register indefinitely as a sexual offender.

After the case Detective Sergeant Daf Curry of Caernarfon CID said, "The kind of acts this man perpetrated have caused his victim and her family huge damage.

"By exploiting a position of trust, particularly towards a vulnerable child, he has betrayed them all and I hope they feel some sense of justice has been reached and they can attempt to rebuild their lives.

"We welcome the sentence and I'd like to assure the communities of North Wales that we will treat every allegation of sexual abuse seriously and thoroughly pursue the perpetrators and bring them to justice."



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