

MARK A. OSTREM

OLMSTED COUNTY ATTORNEY
151 4th STREET SE
ROCHESTER MN 55904-3710



OFFICE 507.328.7600
FAX 507.328.7961
WITNESS LINE 507.328.7610
EMAIL: COUNTY.ATTORNEY@CO.OLMSTED.MN.US

July 17, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Olmsted County Attorney Mark A. Ostrem announced today that Shahla Marie Thompson has entered a plea of guilty to Receipt of Child Pornography in U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota. Ms. Thompson had been charged in both State and Federal courts along with her then boyfriend, Adam Rietz, with multiple counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct and Child Pornography charges from conduct in Olmsted County in 2017 and 2018. Mr. Rietz has also pled guilty in Federal Court and is awaiting sentencing. No date for sentencing has been set for Ms. Thompson.

Olmsted County Attorney Ostrem commented, "The conduct of the individuals in this matter was reprehensible. However, this community should recognize the significant collaboration between several city, county and federal agencies as well as multi-disciplinary teamwork with the partners at the Mayo Clinic Family Advocacy Center. When this case came to light, it was all hands on deck to investigate thoroughly and bring the suspects to justice."

State charges against Ms. Thompson were earlier dismissed after a legal dispute with the court ordering the Olmsted County Attorney's Office to hand over a physical copy of the child pornography to the defendant's attorney. This office refused to violate federal laws by doing so and also out of great concern for the well being of the victim. In light of the strength of the federal prosecution, the County Attorney's Office elected to dismiss and turn the entire prosecution efforts over to the U.S. Attorney.

The negotiated plea in Federal Court for Ms. Thompson anticipates a sentence between 7 and 20 years in custody.