

Enos Bontrager attends meetings in WI after CSA convictions

May 23

In 2016 Bontrager faced trial charged with four counts of sexual assault of a child under 13 years old, two counts of second-degree sexual assault of a child, and one count of sexual assault of a child under 16.

Other allegations of repeated rape of a child, more than 20 years prior, were not pursued because of the statute of limitations.

Hours before his trial was due to start, Bontrager entered into a plea agreement through which he pleaded no contest to reduced charges and was found guilty by the court, of 1) Repeated sexual assault of a child, which is a felony and carries a 40-year prison sentence, 2) Exposing his genitals to a child, and 3) Sexual assault.

The judge initially expressed that the plea deal (deferred prosecution agreement) that was proposed for the felony charges of repeated sexual assault of a child was outrageous and that he couldn't agree to let Enos get away with only probation and no jail time for a charge that carries a 40-year prison sentence.

Bontrager was sentenced to nine months jail, fined \$10,000 and ordered to pay \$6,800 restitution. He was released after seven months.

More detail: https://wiscnews.com/community/baraboonewsrepublic/news/local/woman-criticizes-columbia-county-law-officials-speaks-out-after-childhood-abuser-released-from-jail/article_79fe536e-af42-569f-99c5-b3ae92e24516.html *subscription required*

In April of 2023, a victim sent a message to her overseer, Jeff Thayer (of MN and IA), saying "I deserve to feel safe and if there are policies being put into place regarding sexual predators I would appreciate knowing".

The victim notes:

Two days later **Ray Hoffman** sent me an e-mail asking me to call him.

Ray Hoffman asked that she not share my experiences with sexual assault given the recent events surrounding Dean Bruer.

When I asked Ray what the policy will be when someone comes forward about abuse, he said: **“Well, it’s tricky because a lot of times victims who come forward are mentally unstable and while we feel for them, it’s hard to know what to do.”**

Ray talked about mercy to perpetrators *because we want them to go to heaven. He asked me if I wanted the perpetrators to go to heaven.*

When I asked Ray why Leslie White (an abuser) was allowed to participate in gospel meetings a couple of years ago, the answer was, “Well, he’s losing his mind now, so I doubt we really have to worry about him at this point.” I asked Ray if an abuser is old and losing their mind, is there no restriction or consequence in our “church group”? Ray stammered with no answer. What I heard during the conversation was that I was wrong, that I had a victim mindset, and that I was living in a victim world and therefore, he couldn’t reasonably talk to me. I could no longer take Ray’s victim shaming, so I hung up on him.

I wish I had known before calling that Ray isn’t a “safe” person. I feel it would be unfair to others if I didn’t share my experience. Please still call them, document the call and PLEASE have a witness for support. Every victim deserves support.

3 years ago when many were gathered (workers and friends) at the courthouse to hear me talk about the years long sexual abuse that Enos Bontrager committed on me no one set up a policy then or warned the state of how dangerous he was/is. Now that his stupid minimal sentence is served he’s allowed in meeting free to continue to destroy lives.



