

PROFESSING MAN BROUGHT TO JUSTICE

Walter "Ted" Moore

Professing man upon conviction.

Found guilty of child sexual abuse and sentenced to 7-20 years in prison.

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Emmett man confesses to molesting girls

Walter Moore to serve 7 years for day-care incident

By Elizabeth Ommachen
The Idaho Statesman

An Emmett man admitted he molested two girls at his daughter-in-law's day-care center and as many as 13 other children, all of them daughters of his friends and relatives.

Walter "Ted" Moore, 47, was sentenced Friday to serve seven to 20 years in prison for molesting one of the children, a 4-year-old girl, at the day-care.

Moore was arrested last year when two girls, 3 and 4, told their parents he molested them.

"He would call it 'the tickle game' and he would touch her



Walter Moore

on the belly and then go down," the 3-year-old girl's mother told the judge.

The other girl's mother shared a similar story with Judge Daniel Eismann.

"To have my daughter come to me and tell me that 'Uncle Ted's fingernails hurt my pee pee' — nobody should have to hear that," the 4-year-old girl's mother said.

Authorities believed Moore's confession and said he may have molested even more than the 16 girls.

He is unlikely to face further prosecution because of the statute of limitations.

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Boise City Clerk Amy Lee Moseley said background checks were conducted on Walter Moore's son and daughter-in-law, Tom and Tracy Moore, as required under the city's day-care laws. Walter Moore was not checked because he did not live in the house.

Boise City officials had checked, they likely would be found a stolen moon.

Moore said the existing laws are stringent, but the mother of the 4-year-old said a wider search should be done to include family members who live outside the home.

At first, Moore maintained his innocence and stood trial in March. Several of his relatives and friends testified on his behalf — only to learn later that their daughters were among his victims.

The discovery came when Moore's wife, Marrie, sought support from family members in Oregon and learned that Moore had molested several relatives three years ago. Informed of this, Moore confessed last month to the day-care center crimes and to a series of molestations dating back 18 years.

Wishing their anger and shock against long relationships with Moore, friends and relatives told a judge Friday they still support Moore.

"I don't abandon my friends that need help, and Ted needs help," said an Oregon businessman whose daughter was molested by Moore 13 years ago. She was 6 years old at the time.

Moore preyed upon girls between the ages of 3 and 18. Forensic psychological tests show that Moore, a former Albertson's grocery clerk, meets among mentally healthy people with "superior" intelligence.

Ada County prosecutors charged him with one count of

Opportunity up for day-care centers

Boise's day-care center licenses, which are more stringent than the state's, require:

■ All day-care centers to be licensed every year.

■ Centers and staff must submit criminal records of all employees — including background, fingerprint, background and voluntarily.

■ Full 48-hour background checks also are conducted on residents of the home, even if they do not work in the center.

■ Others who come in contact with the children are checked only when city officials learn of it.

■ Day-care center workers must be licensed.

■ Licenses are denied to individuals who have been convicted of a felony within five years.

■ Anyone who has a conviction or a withheld suggestion for any crime against children — child pornography, sexual molestation, kidnapping, prostitution — is ineligible for license.

■ Those who are listed, or would be listed, on the state's sex offender registry are denied licenses.

■ Those diagnosed as pedophiles are denied licenses.

■ The center's facilities must meet city building, fire, health and zoning requirements.

■ Centers are subject to annual and spot inspections.

Tracking offenders

State and federal law require convicted sex offenders to notify local authorities of their criminal history and their address. In Idaho, the Department of Law Enforcement's Bureau of Criminal Identification tracks these crimes on a sex-offender registry.

To find out if someone's name appears on the registry, you must have the person's name, date of birth and social security number. For more information, call the bureau at 888-7130.

The 4-year-old girl's family members say they're satisfied with Eismann's decision, but they still blame themselves.

"I will have to live with the fact that I did not talk to (her) about good and bad teaching," the girl's mother said. "I didn't think she was old enough."