

#### BSDC Worker Accepts Plea Agreement

(KTNC) -- A former care worker for the Beatrice State Developmental Center has pleaded no contest to charges he abused residents there.

The plea agreement Matthew Pangborn of Beatrice reached with Gage County prosecutors ends the case against him. Pangborn had been convicted earlier, but the Nebraska Supreme Court overturned the conviction.

Pangborn entered the pleas in Gage County District Court on three counts of abuse of a vulnerable adult and two charges of strangulation. Four other charges were dismissed as part of a plea agreement.

Gage County Attorney Roger Harris says his office weighed accepting the plea agreement against the costs of a new trial.

Pangborn was accused of abusing three adult BSDC residents between May and August of 2011. Harris says Pangborn has agreed to cooperate with investigators on any other matters involving alleged abuse that may arise at BSDC.

Harris says his office entered the plea agreement with Pangborn after consulting with parents and guardians of the victims.

The Nebraska Supreme Court had ordered a new trial over submission of a prosecutor's chart for jury deliberation, describing the time frame of the abuse incidents. A jury convicted Pangborn in October of 2012 and he had been sentenced to between 15-and-23 years in prison.

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