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Former Sabetha Man Pleads Guilty to Felony Charges

(KNZA)--A former Sabetha man has pleaded guilty to charges of sexual exploitation of a child and conspiracy to commit aggravated escape from custody.

49-year-old Christopher Sperling entered the plea in Nemaha County District Court Friday. In exchange for the plea, another felony charge-- trafficking contraband into a correctional facility- was dismissed.

Sentencing was scheduled for April 24th.

Authorities say Sperling and another inmate conspired to escape from the Nemaha County Jail last year. A number of shanks were found during a jail inspection last June, leading to the charges.

Sperling was being held on the charge of sexual exploitation of a child at the time. He originally pleaded "not guilty" to that charge last month and a jury trial had been set for next month.

Sperling, a registered sex offender, was arrested in January of last year following an investigation by the Sabetha Police Department.

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