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Falls City Man Pleads to Sex Crimes

(KLZA) A 46 year old Falls City man has entered a plea of no contest to a pair of felony charges in connection with sex crimes involving a child.

Michael Patnode entered the plea in Richardson County District Court to two counts of sexual assault of a child in the third degree as part of a plea agreement.

Sentencing was set for January 29th.

Judge Daniel Bryan declared a mistrial in November following a motion by Patnode's lawyer. Court documents at the time did not specify a reason for the mistrial.

A date for a new jury trial was scheduled for January 8th with Patnode to face a felony charge of sexual assault of a child in the third degree, and a two counts of first degree sexual assault of a child.

Patnode was originally charged with having sexual contact with a child less than 14 years of age on one count and two counts of subjecting a child between ages 12 and 16 to sexual penetration.

Patnode previously spent two years in the Lancaster County Jail after he was convicted on charges of sexual assault of a child.

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