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Mistrial Declared in Richardson County Sexual Assault Trial

(KTNC) - A Falls City man accused of sexually assaulting a child will stand trial again in January, after a mistrial was declared during a hearing Tuesday in Richardson County District Court.

Lawyers for 46-year-old Michael Patnode filed a motion for a mistrial, and District Judge Daniel Bryan granted the motion.

A new trial date was scheduled for January 8th in Richardson County District Court, when Patnode will be tried on the same charges.

Patnode faces a Class 1-C felony charge of sexual assault of a child in the 3rd degree, and two Class 1-B felony charges of 1st degree sexual assault of a child. He has pled not guilty to all charges.

On the first charge, Patnode is accused of having sexual contact with a child less than 14 years of age. On the other two charges, he allegedly subjected a child between 12 and 16 years of age to sexual penetration.

The Class 1-B felony charges carry a maximum sentence of life in prison, with a minimum sentence of 20 years. The 1-C felony carries a maximum sentence of 50 years in prison.

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

Court documents don't specify a reason the mistrial was declared on Tuesday.

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