

## Failure to detect and protect daughters of Sheffield man jailed for life for chronic abuse

DATE: 27<sup>th</sup> November 2008

A former civil servant is to lead a serious case review on the role of public authorities in their alleged failure to protect the daughters of a 56 year old man from severe sexual abuse. On 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008 a man was jailed for life at Sheffield Crown Court after admitting to 25 rapes of his two daughters, fathering nine children. He was sentenced to a minimum of 19 and a half years in prison. Nine children were born, two of whom died on the day of their birth. Another ten pregnancies ended in miscarriage or abortion. The judge in the criminal proceedings stated it was the worst case he had seen in 40 years.

Sheffield and Lincolnshire social services were criticised by the lawyer representing the father in the criminal proceedings. He stated that staff at the hospitals where the girls had been seen had accepted the victims' case that the man was not the father of their children. At the hearing, the court was told that the abuse of the women began when they were pre-pubescent. In order to avoid detection, the father moved the family around Sheffield and Lincolnshire.

The independent review is to investigate the extent of contact that health professionals, police and social services had with the two victims.

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