



LEGAL ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH NEW HAVEN RTC

Content warning: *This contains graphic details of sexual abuse and rape of a minor*

Jason Scott Calder was a therapist who is now serving up to life in prison for sexually abusing a 16-year old at least 10 times while the minor was under his care at New Haven Residential Treatment Center in Utah.

According to news reports, the assaults occurred between March and June of 2017. The sexual abuse occurred in offices at New Haven's Hobble Creek and Spanish Fork locations. The abuse also occurred during evening walks in isolated locations near the New Haven RTC campus.

Jason Calder was eventually fired for his inappropriate behavior, but then went on to work at another adolescent residential facility in Utah. New Haven RTC did not report Calder to the police for months, not until after the victim told a different therapist about the abuses. When contacted by *HuffPost*, New Haven did not respond to questions about the Calder case.

In late 2017 Jason Scott Calder was arrested and charged with 17 felonies including rape, object rape, forcible sodomy, forcible sexual abuse, and obstructing justice. After his arrest, court documents noted that Calder "has worked as therapist/counselor for trouble [sic] youth in the Utah county/Salt Lake area for a number of years. This has provided him with access to a number of girls who were in similar circumstances as the victim in this case. The potential for other victims in this case is extremely high." A cash bail was set at \$100,000.

Jason Scott Calder pled guilty to 10 first-degree felonies including 5 counts of object rape and 5 counts of forcible sodomy. He also pled guilty to 5 counts of forcible sexual abuse and obstructing justice, both second-degree felonies. On January 8, 2018, Calder was sentenced to 5 years to life in

prison for each of the three first-degree felony charges. He was also sentenced to 1 to 5 years in prison for each of the two second-degree felonies. The first-degree sentences will be served concurrently while the second-degree sentences will be served consecutively.

At sentencing, Judge Christine Johnson told Calder: "What you did here is egregious, and I think that is an appropriate sentence." Prosecutor David Sturgill noted that Calder "was fully aware of the vulnerable position that [the victim] was in and exploited it."

The victim's mother described her hesitation to send her child away for treatment at New Haven RTC, but that Calder had reassured her that he was trustworthy. As the mother stated, "[Y]ou had the responsibility to heal her, but you didn't. Instead, you used your position of power and you manipulated her, and you victimized her and you further traumatized her all for your own benefit."

Toronto-based educational consultant, Janyce Lastman, who has referred families to adolescent residential treatment centers and other "troubled teen" programs for decades says, "I don't think there's any way that any program, no matter how good they are, can stop on occasion a perpetrator coming into their midst."

NEWS REPORTS

The information in this summary was obtained from the following news reports. Additional reporting about the Calder case can be found below:

[Canadians faced shocking abuse at U.S. "troubled teen" boarding schools,](#)
HuffPost Canada, November 22, 2020

[Utah therapist who pleaded guilty to raping teenage patient sentenced to prison for up to life,](#)
Salt Lake Tribune, January 9, 2018

[Therapist may spend life in prison for sexual relationship with 16-year-old patient](#)
Daily Herald, January 8, 2018

[Therapist at Utah youth treatment center told victim he was a 'sex addict,' police say](#)
DesertNews, October 16, 2017

[Disturbing details revealed in case of counselor charged with felony rape of teen patient in Utah County](#)
Gephardt Daily, October 16, 2017

[Warrant reveals details about rape, assault allegations against therapist,](#)
2KUTV, October 16, 2017

[Utah therapist charged with 17 felonies told victim he was a 'sex addict,' police say,](#)
KSL.com, October 16, 2017

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