

Chronology-Charles Edward Kennedy

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Chronology Of An Offender:

Twenty years, many victims, escalating violence

In this issue of the WATCH Post, we highlight the nearly 20-year criminal history of Charles Edward Kennedy. This chronology details Kennedy's documented record of escalating abuse against at least 13 women and children in his life, with cases and periods of probation often overlapping. His arsenal includes domestic assault, sexual assault, threats of violence, stalking, harassment, and physical and psychological intimidation. As in many cases of domestic abuse, most of Kennedy's victims were too fearful to come forward or to cooperate with the prosecution after an arrest was made. Multiple victims recanted their stories, which led to no charges or their ultimate dismissal. Kennedy's intimidation of his victims for the charges that remained was relentless. He contacted and threatened victims, even from jail, kidnapped one victim from her bus stop, assaulted another's young son, and threatened the lives of almost all of his victims and their families.

Kennedy's criminal history also includes multiple sexual assaults against his girlfriends' daughters. In one case, while he was released on bail, he again sexually assaulted the same young victim in her home. Perhaps most chilling is the increase in the severity of Kennedy's violence over time. In earlier cases, Kennedy inflicted fear through threats, harassment, and property damage. He has slowly graduated to more severe forms of violence, including one of the most lethal — strangulation. Currently, Kennedy is free on administrative probation.

Note: Victims are identified with sequential letters; the same letters signify the same victim. To minimize confusion, the chronology is organized by case and not by date; the cases do overlap, most notably against victims F and G.

Case One: Damage to Property (Misdemeanor), Disorderly Conduct (Misdemeanor)

9/3/87 Minneapolis Police Report: Kennedy "forced his way" into *Victim A's* apartment and began breaking items. Court records suggest that *A's* sister, *Victim B*, was one of Kennedy's ex-girlfriends and that she had recently given birth to their child. *A* reported that Kennedy was trying to "get at" *B's* boyfriend, *Victim C*, with a knife. Because *C* was gone on arrival, Kennedy was not charged with assault.

9/15/87 Outcome: Kennedy pleaded guilty to both counts and was sentenced to serve 10 days in jail by Judge Jonathan Lebedoff.

Case Two: Fifth Degree Domestic Assault (Misdemeanor)

7/14/92 Minneapolis Police Report: *Victim D* reported that Kennedy tried to run her down with his car. After she got out of the way, Kennedy stopped the car and ran after her. He told her he was going to get a gun and kill her. The victim's brother witnessed the incident.

7/15/92 Arraignment: Kennedy pleaded not guilty before Judge John Stanoch.

8/18/92 Outcome: The assault charge was amended to disorderly conduct, to which Kennedy pleaded guilty. He was sentenced to 60 days in jail with 57 days stayed and credit for three days. Conditions of his probation included no contact with the victim and no same or similar charges. Myron Greenberg was the judge, Julie Rose was the prosecutor and J. Burseth was the defense attorney.

Case Three: Fifth Degree Domestic Assault (Misdemeanor)

4/1/93 Minneapolis Police Report: Kennedy, who had been living with *Victim E* for two months, returned home drunk. *E* did not want him drunk around her children and asked him to leave. Kennedy became violent and said, "I should just kill you now and get it over with." *E* took her children to a friend's apartment nearby. Kennedy followed her, continued to shout death threats through the mail slot, and kicked at the door.

7/20/93 Outcome: The assault charge was amended to disorderly conduct, to which Kennedy pleaded guilty. He was sentenced to 90 days in jail with 80 days stayed. Conditions of his probation included no contact with the victim, no violation of a protective order, and completion of a batterers' program. Lucy Wieland was the judge, Dana Banwer was the prosecutor, and Jerry Patterson was the defense attorney.

Harassment Order One

9/29/94 Harassment Order Petition: *Victim F*, an ex-girlfriend, filed a petition for a harassment order against Kennedy. The petition noted that after she broke up with Kennedy, he threatened, "to sneak on" and "do something" to her and that he "was going to time himself and he would get her."

10/12/94 Outcome: *F* was not present for the initial hearing, and the petition was dismissed by Referee Paul Gilles.

Case Four: Fifth Degree Domestic Assault (Misdemeanor)

4/1/95 Minneapolis Police Report: Kennedy began calling *F* names, and she asked Kennedy to leave her apartment. Kennedy asked for her apartment keys so he could "come and go as he pleased." She refused, and Kennedy threw her to the ground. The victim ran from the apartment, but Kennedy ran after her and dragged her back.

4/3/95 Arraignment: Kennedy pleaded not guilty before Judge Daniel Mabley. SIP notes that contact with the victim was allowed.¹

4/21/95 Outcome: The case was dismissed on the motion of the prosecutor. F was present and concurred. The judge was Richard Scherer, the prosecutor was James Peterson and Kennedy represented himself.

Harassment Order Two

6/14/95 Harassment Order Petition: F filed another petition for a harassment order. Her petition noted that she and Kennedy had been dating for three years and that "The petitioner has had to call the police hundreds of times in the past year to get the respondent away from her. The petitioner has now been notified that if she calls the police to come to her apartment one more time, she will be evicted."

6/28/95 Outcome: F was not present for the initial hearing, and the petition was dismissed by May Lawson.

Case Five: Fifth Degree Domestic Assault (Misdemeanor), Damage to Property (Misdemeanor)

1/5/96 Minneapolis Police Report: Kennedy tried to enter F's house through the door and the windows, but she refused to let him in. Kennedy then punched through a glass window on the front door. Fearing for her own and her children's safety, she called 911.

1/8/96 Arraignment: Kennedy pleaded not guilty to fifth degree domestic assault before Judge Roberta Levy.

9/30/96 Outcome: Both charges were dismissed on the motion of the prosecutor. Beryl Nord was the judge, and Kennedy represented himself.

Case Six: Fifth Degree Domestic Assault (Misdemeanor)

5/3/96 SIP Report: Kennedy was charged with fifth degree domestic assault against F.

5/6/96 Arraignment: Kennedy pleaded not guilty before Judge Thomas Wexler.

6/25/96 Outcome: The charge was dismissed on the motion of the prosecutor for insufficient evidence. Kevin Burke was the judge.

¹ SIP stands for 'subject in process.' It is the Hennepin County criminal justice database.

Case Seven: First Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct (Felony), Third Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct (Felony)

4/29/95 Minneapolis Police Report: Kennedy, who was living with his girlfriend, raped her 13-year-old daughter, *Victim G* who was sleeping in her room with her baby brother, Kennedy's biological son, at the time of the assault. Kennedy went to *G's* bedroom and told her to find another place for the baby. He then raped her on the floor.

5/18/95 SIP Report: Judge Herbert Lefler was notified that Kennedy was trying to contact *G* from jail.

5/19/95 Recantation: *G* recanted her story claiming that she was under pressure at home, wanted Kennedy out of the house, and that the semen on her clothing came from another man.

6/7/95 Probable Cause Pretrial: Kennedy pleaded not guilty to both charges before Judge John Sommerville. The prosecution motioned for collection of DNA samples.

9/7/95 SIP Report: Child protection notified the criminal court that Kennedy, then released, was in contact with *G*.

9/8/95 Court Records: *G* told a police detective that she lied about the semen coming from another man.

11/27/95 Plea Bargain: WATCH volunteer notes state that the prosecution offered Kennedy the following plea bargain for **Case Seven:** if he pleaded guilty, he could be sentenced to a year in jail with work release. The volunteer noted that Kennedy refused the plea bargain and that *G* was present.

Case Eight: Attempted First Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct (Two Felony Counts)

5/31/96 Minneapolis Police Report and Complaint: On 11/1/95, Kennedy, who was once again seeing *G's* mother, spent the night at their home and assaulted her again. Kennedy entered the victim's bedroom, rubbed her thighs, attempted to penetrate her digitally, and offered her money for sex. *G* told her mother about the incident the next day, and Kennedy was kicked out of their home. This assault was not reported until 5/31/96.

6/3/96 Sprigle Evidence²: The prosecution moved to admit Kennedy's past sexual assaults from 1991 and 1992 into evidence for **Case Seven**. The victim of the 1991 assault, *Victim H*, was the 14-year-old daughter of Kennedy's girlfriend at that time. In *H's* home, Kennedy tried to take her shirt off and told her, "If you don't have sex with me I'm going to kick you out." The victim of the 1992 assault, *Victim I*, was sleeping in a motel room with five other people. The victim felt someone on top of her, saw it was Kennedy, and told him to get off of her. He raped her instead.

² Evidence of prior bad acts.

6/17/96 Jury Trial: The jury trial for **Case Seven** with **Case Eight** offered as Spriegl evidence began before Judge David Duffy. The charges had been amended to Attempted First Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct (Two Felony Counts) and Third Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct.

6/26/96 Competency Evaluation: Judge Duffy ordered a competency evaluation and found Kennedy incompetent to proceed. Criminal proceedings were suspended and the jury disbanded.

10/3/96 Jury Trial: A new jury trial began for **Case Seven** before Judge Robert Lynn. When on the witness stand, Kennedy attempted to explain the presence of his semen on *G*'s shorts by stating that everyone living in the home wore each other's clothing.

10/16/96 Verdict: The jury found Kennedy guilty of two counts of attempted first degree criminal sexual conduct in **Case Seven**.

11/6/96 Case Eight Outcome: The charges were dismissed on the motion of the prosecutor. Robert Lynn was the judge, Carla Hagen was the prosecutor, and John Lucas was the defense attorney.

11/6/96 Case Seven Outcome: Judge Robert Lynn sentenced Kennedy to serve 43 months in prison with credit for 153 days. The third degree criminal sexual conduct charge was dismissed. Carla Hagen was the prosecutor, and John Lucas was the defense attorney.

12/97 Appellate Court Reversal: The Minnesota Court of Appeals reversed the conviction and granted a new trial, holding that the district court abused its discretion by admitting evidence of **Case Eight**.

11/5/98 Supreme Court Reversal: The Minnesota Supreme Court reversed the decision of the Court of Appeals and reinstated the judgment and sentence of the district court.

Case Nine: Fifth Degree Domestic Assault (Four Misdemeanor Counts), Disorderly Conduct (Misdemeanor)

1/10/01 Minneapolis Police Report: Kennedy, who married after getting out of prison, assaulted his by then estranged wife, *Victim J*, and her 11-year-old son, *Victim K*. Kennedy went to *J*'s house and started pounding on the door and windows. She let him in, they argued, and Kennedy physically assaulted her. When her son intervened, Kennedy punched him in the head and pushed him into a wall. *J* told police that she was afraid of Kennedy and no longer wanted to be involved with him.

1/11/01 Arraignment: Kennedy pleaded not guilty to all charges before Judge Diana Eagon.

1/23/01 Outcome: The prosecution was granted a motion to dismiss the four assault charges, and Kennedy pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct. He was sentenced to 90 days in jail with 76 days stayed and credit for 14 days. Conditions of the sentence included

anger management or domestic abuse counseling, no contact with the victim, completion of a substance abuse evaluation, and no same or similar charges. The judge was Andrew Danielson, the prosecutor was Lois Conroy and the defense attorney was Sheila Faulkner.

Case Ten: Fifth Degree Domestic Assault (Misdemeanor)

7/30/01 Minneapolis Police Report: Kennedy broke into the home of his ex-girlfriend, *Victim L*, by kicking in her basement window, tearing off the screen, and disabling the alarm system. Kennedy and *L* argued and he pushed her. *L* told police that she had ended the relationship and wanted nothing to do with Kennedy.

7/31/01 Arraignment: Kennedy pleaded not guilty before Judge Diana Eagon.

9/27/02 Outcome: *The charge was dismissed on the motion of the prosecutor. Lucy Wieland was the judge, Tim Richards was the prosecutor, and Daniel Moreno was the defense attorney.*

Case Eleven: Fifth Degree Domestic Assault (Misdemeanor)

8/25/01 SIP Report: Kennedy was charged with fifth degree domestic assault in Brooklyn Park.

8/27/01 Arraignment: Kennedy pleaded not guilty before Judge Lloyd Zimmerman.

10/1/01 Outcome: Kennedy pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail with 55 days stayed. The conditions of the sentence included unsupervised probation and no same or similar charges. His probation for **Case Nine** was also revoked, and as a result, he was ordered to concurrently serve 35 days with 41 days stayed. Conditions for the sentence for revocation included anger management or domestic abuse counseling, no contact with the victim, no mood-altering chemicals, and a chemical dependency evaluation. The judge was Andrew Danielson, the prosecutor was Roger Fellows, and the defense attorney was Paul Maravigli.

Case Twelve: Fifth Degree Domestic Assault (Two Gross Misdemeanor Counts), Fifth Degree Domestic Assault (Misdemeanor), Disorderly Conduct (Misdemeanor)

4/4/02 Minneapolis Police Report: Kennedy was angry with *Victim M* when he pounded and kicked at her front door, demanding entry. He said, "If I can't get in here tonight, I'm going to f---ing kill you." A guest in the home tried to leave the house, and Kennedy forced his way in. Kennedy and *M* argued and he grabbed her, threw her up against several walls, pushed her over the sink, and began strangling her. *M's* 13-year-old daughter called 911. *M* told police that she feared for her life.

4/11/02 Outcome: Kennedy pleaded guilty to one gross misdemeanor count of fifth degree domestic assault and the remaining charges were dismissed on the motion of the prosecutor. He was sentenced to 290 days in jail with 235 days stayed. Conditions of the sentence included anger management counseling, active probation, and no assault charges. His probation for **Case Eleven** was also revoked, and he was ordered to

concurrently serve the remaining 55 days. Conditions for the sentence for revocation included no same or similar charges. Allen Oliesky was the judge, Melissa Johnson was the prosecutor, and Joelle Sather was the defense attorney.

Case Thirteen: First Degree Burglary (Felony), Violation of an Order for Protection (Felony)

8/6/02 Minneapolis Police Report: Kennedy broke into *Victim M's* home by cutting the screen to a basement window. *M*, who had an order for protection against Kennedy, told him to leave. Kennedy tried to run off with *M's* house and car keys. *M* and her daughters managed to get the keys back and left the home to call the police.

8/30/02 Probable Cause Pretrial: Kennedy pleaded not guilty to both charges before Judge Gary Larson.

10/15/02 SIP Report: *Kennedy was conditionally released by Judge E. Anne McKinsey. Conditions of his release included no contact with the victim and intensive conditional supervision.*

11/12/02 Outcome: Victim *M* did not appear in court despite being served with a subpoena. According to SIP, both charges were dismissed due to “insufficient evidence.” Delila Pierce was the judge, Deborah Russell was the prosecutor, and Joelle Sather was the defense attorney.

Case Fourteen: Fifth Degree Assault (Felony), Interference with an Emergency Call (Felony)

11/19/03 Minneapolis Police Report: Kennedy entered ex-girlfriend *Victim N's* house without her permission and she told him to leave. Kennedy became angry and dragged her out of bed and up a flight of stairs. He then ordered her to cook him some food and threatened to stab her with a knife if she did not comply. *N* tried to call 911, but Kennedy unplugged the phone. She fled to another room, where she called 911 again. Kennedy followed her and began punching her upper torso with a closed fist. She fled again, but Kennedy continued to pursue her throughout the residence and eventually attempted to strangle her. *N* told police that Kennedy had assaulted her many times, but she had not reported the assaults because she feared retaliation from his family.

11/21/03 Arraignment: A WATCH monitor wrote that *N* came forward to say that Kennedy did not assault her and that he did not interfere with any 911 calls. Judge Robert Blaeser presided.

12/12/03 Probable Cause Pretrial: Kennedy pleaded not guilty to both charges before Judge E. Anne McKinsey.

12/23/03 Letter: Kennedy wrote a letter to Judge E. Anne McKinsey in which he stated that he never touched *N* on that night and that the police made the story up. He listed various difficulties that he had experienced in the previous year, said that “lots” on his record was

not true, and claimed that he had never done anything to hurt anyone. He also wrote that his pastor supported him.

2/18/04 Jury Trial: A WATCH volunteer noted that *N* said that she only called 911 to get Kennedy to leave the house, that Kennedy did not pull out the phone cord, and that the case should be dismissed. In opening statements, the defense attorney described the case as one about “a woman who made a mistake.” Judge Pamela Alexander presided over the trial, Doug Myren was the prosecutor, and Sarah Walter was the defense attorney.

2/20/04 Outcome: The jury found Kennedy not guilty of both charges.

Case Fifteen: False Imprisonment (Two Felony Counts)

7/21/04 Minneapolis Police Report: Kennedy waited for *N* at her bus stop and forced her into his car. He drove her to his home, where she ran from the car and pounded on a neighbor’s door. Kennedy ran after her, tackled her, and carried her into his house. He held her there against her will for several hours, threatening to kill her and her family, make her lose her job, and retaliate if she reported the incident to police. *N* asked to use the phone to check on her seriously ill mother and called 911 instead.

7/23/04: Judge Delila Pierce set bail at \$100,000.

7/27/04: Judge Marilyn Brown Rosenbaum revised bail to \$25,000.

8/16/04 Letter: In a letter to Judge Daniel Mabley, Kennedy reiterated his difficulties over the past year and noted that *N* had a “bad anger problem, too.”

10/8/04 Conditional Release: After Judge Stephen Swanson reduced the bail from \$25,000 to \$15,000, Kennedy made bail. Conditions of release included no contact with the victim.

10/11/04 Harassment: Three days after Kennedy made bail and was released, *N* reported a pattern of harassment to Prosecutor Doug Myren. She expressed dismay that she had not been contacted about Kennedy’s release and said that he had called her over fifty times in the previous two days. An investigator in the prosecutor’s office reviewed the saved voicemails, which included such threats as “You’re gonna regret what you’ve done,” “When I catch you, I’m gonna stick it to your mother f---king ass,” and “You can play games if you want to, I’m gonna get up with you.” *N* told the prosecutor that she had moved five times in an effort to protect herself and her seven-year old daughter from Kennedy.

10/12/04: *N* testified about Kennedy’s phone contact with her after his release, which was then revoked. *N* requested security to accompany her in the hallway and to her car.

10/13/04 Plea: Kennedy pleaded guilty to felony fifth degree domestic assault after the original charge was amended from false imprisonment. The second false imprisonment charge was dismissed on the motion of the prosecutor.

11/29/04 Outcome: Judge Steven Pihlaja sentenced Kennedy to 18 months in prison with credit for 80 days, stayed for three years, and placed him on three years of administrative probation. Conditions of his sentence include no use of controlled substances, no contact with the victim, and no assault charges. Kennedy must also remain law abiding.

Update 1-Charles Edward Kennedy

Published in Summer 2005 WATCH Post

In the last edition of the *WATCH Post*, we reported on the 20-year criminal history of Charles Edward Kennedy, who has victimized at least 13 women and children. Since then, Kennedy has been re-arrested on two gross misdemeanor domestic assault charges and a misdemeanor disorderly conduct charge stemming from a May 14 incident.

Kennedy was at his stepfather's home with his girlfriend T.M., who was also living there, his sister, his sister's friend, and his stepbrother. A disagreement occurred, and T.M. left the living room to go into the bathroom. At the revocation hearing resulting from the new charges, Kennedy's stepfather testified that Kennedy followed T.M. from the bathroom into a bedroom, where he grabbed her by the hair and pulled her around. Kennedy's stepbrother called the police, and Kennedy was arrested. Following his arrest, T.M. left Kennedy's stepfather a note asking him not to testify at the revocation hearing, stating "Please, if you could, don't show up to court tomorrow. If you go to court he is going straight to jail again."

At the revocation hearing, T.M. (now Kennedy's ex-girlfriend) testified that nothing happened in the bedroom and that she did not want Kennedy to be sent to prison. As Kennedy reentered the courtroom after a recess, WATCH monitors observed Kennedy laughing and dancing.

Judge Lucy Weiland ruled that evidence of disorderly conduct existed, but not domestic assault. She revoked 90 days of Kennedy's sentence with credit for 31 days served and no work release. Kennedy will be released on July 13 and placed on active supervision until November 29, 2007. He must follow all recommendations of probation, including no same or similar offenses, random urinalysis, chemical dependency treatment and after-care, and attendance at support groups. Citing lack of evidence of domestic assault from the revocation hearing, the county attorney's office dropped the gross misdemeanor charges.

Update 2-Charles Edward Kennedy

Published in Fall 2006 WATCH Post

WATCH published a chronology of domestic abuser and convicted sex offender Charles Edward Kennedy in the spring 2005 WATCH Post. This article summarizes his most recent involvement with the justice system.

Kennedy's criminal history includes 20 years of escalating domestic violence and sexual assaults against at least 13 women and children. Kennedy's intimidation of his victims was relentless, contacting and threatening them from jail, kidnapping one from her bus stop, and physically and sexually assaulting his victim's children. In 1995, Kennedy raped the 13-year-old daughter of his girlfriend as the child slept in her room with her baby half-brother, Kennedy's biological son. While out on bail for that case, Kennedy

sexually assaulted the same girl again. During the trial, prosecutors brought into evidence the 1991 rape of another girlfriend's 14-year-old daughter.

As a registered sex offender Kennedy is required to keep his current address on file with county probation. At an appointment with his probation officer on July 13, 2006, Kennedy completed a change of information card updating his address. On August 30, officers paid a visit to the address to verify that Kennedy lived there and found that he did not.

Kennedy was arrested for the violation, and Judge Patricia Belois set bail at \$25,000. At his first appearance before Judge John McShane, Kennedy, who is remarried to a woman with children, said that he was living with his father since he knew he couldn't live with his wife. He also told Judge McShane that he intends to go to sex offender treatment, something he has not yet done although it is a condition of his probation. Judge McShane reduced bail to \$5,000 stating, "Mr. Kennedy, I'm taking a big chance on you, partner. If anything happens between now and the next appearance, you'll be in deep weeds."

Kennedy made bail and is out of custody. His next hearing is set for November 27, 2006. Kennedy continues to use the system and its players to his advantage and without consequence. We hope that he gets no more second chances or lectures on life in the "weeds".