



DenverDA

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NEWS RELEASE

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RESTAURANT OWNER PLEADS GUILTY

A 43-year-old restaurant owner has pleaded guilty today to charges of sexually assaulting one of his employees in 2004.

Santino Rando (dob: 09-01-62) pleaded guilty to *sexual assault* (F3) and *contributing to the delinquency of a minor* (F4).

Rando and the victim, who was 20 at the time, had gone out for dinner on August 10, 2004. The charges alleged that Rando slipped the woman a drug while they were drinking wine, causing her to lose consciousness and making her incapable of consenting to sexual intercourse.

Rando was charged on September 10, 2004 and later failed to appear for a court hearing in October 2005. A warrant was issued for his arrest and he was taken into custody November 30, 2005. Santino was scheduled to go on trial this week, but entered his guilty plea in Denver District Court today.

Santino is currently set for sentencing on September 8, 2006 at 1:30 PM in Denver District Courtroom 12.

