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NEWS RELEASE

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MAXIMUM SENTENCE IN COLD CASE

A man accused of kidnapping and sexually assaulting a woman in November 2000 has been sentenced to the maximum prison sentence under the presumptive range.

Leonard Loftin (dob: 02-12-55) was found guilty earlier of *second-degree kidnapping* and *sexual assault*, and appeared for sentencing yesterday in Denver District Court where he was sentenced to the Colorado Department of Corrections for a 36 years-to-life term.

On November 24, 2000, Loftin grabbed a 42-year-old woman and pulled her into a dark area in the 1500 block of Pearl Street where he sexually assaulted her. She was later able to escape. The case was unsolved for almost a decade until the Denver Police Department's Cold Case Review Team was notified of a DNA match that eventually led to identifying Loftin as a suspect.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Maggie Conboy and Deputy District Attorney Phil Reinert.

The Cold Case DNA Project is an ongoing collaborative effort involving Denver Police detectives, the Denver Police Department Crime Lab and the Denver District Attorney's Office with grant funding through the National Institute of Justice.