



DenverDA

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DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

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JOINT NEWS RELEASE

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MAN CHARGED IN COLD CASE SEXUAL ASSAULT FROM 1995

Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey has formally charged a man in connection with the kidnapping and sexual assault of a teenager that occurred in 1995. The charges are the result of work by Denver's Cold Case Project.

Markie Lee Peoples (dob: 12-20-72) is charged with *kidnapping* (F2) and *sexual assault on a child* (F4).

The charges allege that Peoples kidnapped and sexually assaulted a 14-year-old girl in March, 1995, after offering the victim and her friends a ride. The case was unsolved at the time.

In 2004, the case was reviewed in an attempt to utilize advances in DNA technology to identify a suspect. The review did locate biological material on the victim's clothing, but there was not enough to develop a DNA profile. In June, 2013, the case was again reviewed and a Denver Crime Lab Forensic Scientist was able to use new DNA technology to develop a DNA profile which was then submitted to CODIS. Earlier this month, the Denver Police Department was notified of a match, identifying Peoples as a suspect.

Peoples was charged last week. He has been released from custody on a \$50,000 bond and is scheduled for a preliminary hearing on November 27, 2013.

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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.