



***NEWS RELEASE –***

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**MAN SENTENCED IN 1999 COLD CASE SEXUAL ASSAULT**

A man accused of sexually assaulting a pregnant woman in 1999 was sentenced today to prison.

**Roberto Valenzuela** (dob: 06-07-1955) was charged in September 2016 with *kidnapping* and *sexual assault*. He pleaded guilty in August to *second degree assault-serious bodily injury* (F4) and *attempted sexual assault in the first degree* (F5). He was sentenced in Denver District Court this afternoon to 16 years in prison, three years mandatory parole for the *assault* conviction, and three years in prison, two years mandatory parole for the *attempted assault* conviction. The sentences are to run concurrently.

In November 1999 Valenzuela offered a ride to the victim. He drove her to a church parking lot and hit her in the face and sexually assaulted her in his car. He then transported her to a second location where he committed a second sexual assault. The victim managed to escape later when Valenzuela stopped at a stop sign. The victim had been out walking that night after having a fight with her boyfriend. She was five months pregnant at the time of the assault. Valenzuela was identified as a suspect through the work of Denver's Cold Case Project, and was arrested in September 2016.