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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Prolific “Sorority” Serial Rapist sentenced to Multiple Life Sentences + 50 Years across Four Metroplex Counties thanks to Investigative Genetic Genealogy

(Dallas, Texas) – 52-year-old “Sorority Rapist” Jeffrey Wheat was sentenced to 2 life sentences, plus 30 and 20 years in four cases of violent home invasion sexual assaults that took place in Dallas, Collin, Denton, and Tarrant Counties between 2003-2011. The high-profile cases were featured on a 2012 episode of *America’s Most Wanted*.

The Dallas County cases were prosecuted by the Dallas County District Attorney’s Office Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Cold Case Team (SAKI). Dallas County District Attorney John Creuzot said, “I remain exceedingly proud of the work done by this unit, led by Chief ADA Leighton D’Antoni. Our office has been a national leader in the use of Investigative Genetic Genealogy (IGG) and prosecuting cold cases solved using IGG – proof positive as to why this unit and the grant that provides for it are invaluable to seeking justice in Dallas County and, in this case, across the metroplex.”

Mr. Wheat used his positions at a home security and a credit card processing company to access the personal information of members of a North Texas sorority who lived across the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

On September 15, 2011, the Coppell Police Department responded to a home invasion sexual assault of a woman who was attacked while sleeping in her bed. The victim was taken to Parkland Memorial Hospital for a sexual assault exam. The sexual assault kit was analyzed by the Southwest Institute of Forensic Science (“SWIFS”) and an unknown male DNA profile was identified.

Coppell Police discovered a similar offense that took place in Plano, Texas, on April 2, 2011. The Plano Police Department had identified an unknown male DNA profile in their case. The unknown male DNA profiles from each case were compared and were a match. Later in 2011, law enforcement in Coppell and Plano became aware of similar sexual assault-related offenses that occurred in Corinth (October of 2011) and Arlington (2003) when unknown male DNA from those cases matched the unknown male DNA from the Coppell and Plano cases.

There was a total of four home invasion sexual assault-related cases all tied to one unknown male’s DNA. For a decade, law enforcement was unable to match the unknown male DNA profile to a suspect, until 2021 when the Plano Police Department identified Jeffrey Wheat as the suspect in all four cases utilizing Investigative Genetic Genealogy (IGG). Mr. Wheat was arrested on all four cases. After his arrest, a search warrant was obtained to confirm Mr. Wheat’s DNA was a match to all four cases.

On February 27, 2024, Jeffrey Wheat appeared in a Collin County courtroom in person, and virtually appeared in courtrooms in Dallas County, Tarrant County, and Denton County to plead guilty on all four cases. Mr. Wheat received life sentences for Burglary of a Habitation with Intent to Commit Sexual Assault in Collin and Tarrant Counties; 30 years prison for Aggravated Sexual Assault in Dallas County, and 20 years prison for the case in Denton County. Several of the survivors appeared live in court for the plea and gave emotional impact statements.

The Dallas County cases were prosecuted by the Dallas County District Attorney's (SAKI) Unit Chief Leighton D'Antoni along with Assistant District Attorney Haley Pratt.

"This is why we have the federal SAKI grant. It affords us the opportunity to investigate and vigorously prosecute cases that could not be previously solved. The SAKI grant allows the Dallas County District Attorney's Office to be at the forefront of IGG. This pioneering technology will change lives and bring justice to countless people all over the world. Dallas County is blessed to be at the forefront of this revolution." said ADA D'Antoni. "I want to thank the Coppell Police Department and Detective Steve Hayes, the Plano Police Department, the Arlington Police Department, and the Corinth Police Department for their hard work on this case to seek this justice on behalf of these women and their families. This investigation highlights what can happen when the best in North Texas law enforcement come together to solve the most difficult cold cases."

The Dallas County District Attorney's Office would also like to thank the Collin County District Attorney's Office, the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office, and the Denton County District Attorney's Office for their collective, common goal spirit to reach this outcome that provided justice and closure for all parties involved.

ADA D'Antoni added that "collaborating on high-profile cases with multiple counties can sometimes be a difficult process. All four counties put their self-interests aside to make sure the correct and just outcome was achieved. Collin County ADA Callie Bailey deserves a lot of credit for leading all four District Attorney's Offices to this righteous result."