

## West Bloomfield doctor headed to prison for sex assault of young boy



Jeffrey Dembs

By [John Turk](#), The Oakland Press

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A West Bloomfield pediatrician who pleaded no contest to sexually abusing an 11-year-old patient was sentenced Tuesday to six to 10 years in prison.

Jeffrey Dembs, 61, originally was charged with one count of first-degree criminal sexual conduct and two counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct in a case that was filed in 2009. He recently pleaded no contest to three lesser charges of criminal sexual conduct, assault with intent to commit penetration, and was sentenced on the higher end of the sentencing guidelines.

The lower end was 29-57 months, said Oakland County Prosecutor Jessica Cooper, but Circuit Judge Shalina Kumar sentenced the doctor to a minimum of 76 months to 10 years in prison, and more than \$154,000 in restitution.

Kumar, before deciding on the sentence, told Dembs he is “the worst of the worst when it comes to preying on children.”

“This child in particular, having just lost his father ... the vulnerability of this child losing his father and you stepping into that role ... I also think psychological damage is not taken into account,” Kumar said, citing her reasoning for increasing the sentence.

“The extensive amount of grooming that occurred here and the incomprehensible number of assaults ... I don’t know how you live every day without torturing yourself for the torture you put these people through.”

Dembs was previously employed at the My Kid’s Doc practice in Novi, located on 12 Mile Road. The defense was granted a future evidentiary hearing involving restitution. Dembs also was ordered to undergo DNA and HIV testing and to abide by sex offender registry requirements. Audience members leaving the courtroom could be heard choking back tears, saying, “Justice was served.”

The victim's mother, who noted she trusted Dembs like a brother or an uncle, said: "He not only sexually molested my son, but he chose to do it over and over again. This was not a momentary lapse of judgment; this was a well thought out plan."

The victim's mother will not be named to protect the victim's identity.

"He was like family to all of us, and a trusted pediatrician to our children," said the victim's mother, whom declined to give a reaction following the sentencing. "He manipulated our family."

In the case against Dembs, prosecutors and the boy, now a teenager, accused him of sexual abuse. The teen testified in court that the pediatrician had attempted to foster a sexual relationship with him over the course of a little more than two years, at one point buying him lavish gifts.

Other statements from the teen alleged Dembs had sex with him three times — a point of contention in Kumar's courtroom Tuesday as attorneys discussed sentencing guidelines.

The abuse — involving inappropriate touching and oral sex — was said to have occurred at Dembs' West Bloomfield home and other places, according to court filings.

Records also point to another youth who stayed with Dembs from time to time.

Some time during the course of the alleged relationship, that teen also said Dembs took him and another boy out of state for a boxing match. Dembs is a doctor who works at boxing matches in Detroit, which was the impetus for the trip, according to a January filing.

In court, Assistant Oakland County Prosecutor Chris George mentioned the psychological impact of the abuse has taken a toll on the boy and his family.

The teen had to move out of state for treatment following his reporting the abuse, George said, and the mother had to be without her son for a year.

## About the Author



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