

**GINGER BOWDEN MADDEN**  
STATE ATTORNEY



OFFICE OF  
**STATE ATTORNEY**  
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

November 6, 2023

**PRESS RELEASE**

(Escambia County, Florida), On November 1, 2023, Robert Joel Cota was found guilty by an Escambia County jury of Sexual Battery (victim less than 12 years of age), Sexual Battery (while in position of custodial authority), Aggravated Child Abuse, and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Immediately following the verdict, Cota was sentenced by Circuit Court Judge Coleman Robinson to two consecutive life sentences plus an additional thirty-five years in the Department of Corrections. Cota was also designated a Sexual Predator.

During the trial, it was revealed that Robert Cota had been sexually abusing a minor child for a period of three years. The abuse started when the victim was 11 years old and continued until they were 14 years old. When law enforcement made contact with the victim, they found that the victim also had extensive bruising, scars, and marks from months of physical abuse at the hands of Robert Cota. At the trial, Robert Cota admitted to hitting the victim with belts, cords, and automobile parts.

Prosecuting attorney, Ms. Carrie Gilmer stated, "This defendant perpetrated some of the most heinous acts against a vulnerable child. This sentence ensures that Robert Cota will not be a danger to anyone else and provides some much needed closure to the victim and their family."

The investigation and arrest were conducted by the Escambia County Sheriff's Office and Assistant State Attorney, Carrie Gilmer prosecuted this case on behalf of Ginger Bowden Madden, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida. For further information, please contact Ms. Gilmer at 850-595-4500.

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