



# DenverDA

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### ***JOINT NEWS RELEASE***

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#### **PRISON SENTENCE FOR RAPIST IN '98 COLD CASE**

A Denver District Court Judge handed down a lengthy prison term yesterday for a man who pleaded guilty earlier to sexually assaulting a woman in 1998. The case is the result of work by Denver's Cold Case Project.

**Michael Spears** (dob: 09-17-54) pleaded guilty in November 2009 to second-degree kidnapping involving a sexual assault (F2) and was sentenced yesterday to the maximum sentence of 24 years in prison.

Spears attacked a 34-year-old woman in October 1998 at about 7:45 a.m. as she was walking in the area of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Stuart Street. Spears appeared to be having a problem with a bicycle and the victim approached to help. Spears attacked her, pushed her into some nearby bushes and sexually assaulted her before fleeing on the bicycle.

The case remained unsolved until a DNA match led to the arrest of Spears last year.