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## **NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Minocqua Man Sentenced for Child Sexual Assault After Testing of Backlogged Sexual Assault Kits**

RHINELANDER, Wis. – Attorney General Josh Kaul today announced that **Brandon A. Darnick** has been sentenced to **25 years initial confinement plus 15 years extended supervision** following a guilty jury verdict in Oneida County for First Degree Child Sexual Assault – Sexual Contact with a Child Under Age 13 for an assault that occurred in 2013. The victim’s sexual assault kit was tested as part of the Wisconsin Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) in 2018. The case was presided over by Oneida Co. Judge Patrick F. O’Melia.

“This case shows, once again, how important the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative is and how important it is that we continue working to strengthen Wisconsin’s response to sexual assault,” said Attorney General. “Thank you to the many people whose work led to justice.”

This conviction was the result of a joint effort by civilian witnesses, Minocqua Police Department, Oneida County Sheriff’s Office, Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory, Sorenson Forensics, St. Claire’s Hospital, Tri-County Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, the Wisconsin Sexual Assault Kit Initiative team at the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ), and DOJ Division of Criminal Investigation. Victim services were provided by the DOJ Office of Crime Victim Services. The case was prosecuted by Assistant Attorneys General Amber Hahn and Noel Lawrence, with assistance from legal associate Tiffany Briggs, paralegals Jackie Righter and Rachael Sweet, and support staff Nikole Kane and Julia Patz, in partnership with the Oneida County District Attorney’s Office.