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Shelburne dentist found guilty in sexual assault case

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A Shelburne dentist accused of sexually assaulting a minor at his dental office has been found guilty.

Muthanna Gewarges, a dentist who practiced at Small Town Family Dental on Main Street in Shelburne, was convicted on charges of sexual assault and touching for sexual purposes following a trial in Orangeville earlier this month.

A resident of Mono, Gewarges was arrested in May of 2019 following a lengthy investigation from the then Shelburne Police Service (SPS). According to Shelburne Police Sgt. Mark Bennett the collective incidents occurred between November 2018 and February 2019. At the time of Gewarges arrest, investigators reached out to the public for assistance with the belief that there may be additional victims.

Gewarges was charged with several sexual-related offences including one count of sexual assault, one count of sexual exploitation, and one count of communicating with a person under 18 for sexual purposes. He was also accused of offering money to the individual and other rewards in return for performing sexual acts.

A publication ban has been put in place prohibiting the release of any information that could identify the victim or any witnesses.

A three-day trial was originally agreed on by the Crown and defence to be held on Sept. 29, Nov. 30, and Dec. 8 of 2020, but was delayed with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gewarges had provided dental care to residents in Dufferin County since 1998 and opened Small Town Family Dental in 2014.

According to Orangeville courts, a presentence report (PSR) has been ordered, which is used to help the court make sentencing decisions.

A sentencing hearing has been scheduled for a later date.