

**News Release from**  
**The Honorable Sandra Doorley**  
**Monroe County District Attorney**

February 1, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Taha Alashwal Pleads Guilty to 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Criminal Sexual Act**

Rochester, NY- Today, Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley announced that Taha Alashwal, former owner of a local pizza shop, has pled guilty to Criminal Sexual Act in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree for having sexual contact with a teenage boy in a Henrietta hotel in June of 2012. Alashwal, of Syracuse, NY, fostered a relationship with the boy through his business and admitted to taking him to the hotel with the intent of engaging in sexual acts with him. The subsequent investigation, however, revealed that the boy was able to repel Alshwal's advances by stabbing him with a pen located in the hotel room and running to the lobby for help. Alashwal was arrest hours later after Monroe County Sherriff's Deputies were summoned to the scene.

Kyle Rossi of the Monroe County District Attorney's Office Child Abuse Bureau prosecuted the case for the People.

"Children inherently admire and trust those who are successful or in positions of power, and to use that trust in the manner that Taha Alashwal did is a particularly insidious form of abuse," said Rossi. "Mr. Alashwal's conduct in this case represents a danger to any community in which he resides, and I'm pleased to have had the opportunity to bring him to justice and to make sure that no other young person goes through what the victim in this case went through at his hands."

Alashwal will appear on March 12th before Judge Affronti for sentencing, where he will receive 7 years in prison and 12 years or post release supervision. As a condition of his plea, he has waived his right to appeal and will be required to register as a Sex Offender.

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