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JOINT NEWS RELEASE

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SERIAL RAPIST GIVEN MULTIPLE LIFE SENTENCES

A man convicted of sexually assaulting three women in separate attacks in the 1990s has been given multiple life prison sentences today in Denver District Court.

Byron Gay (dob: 03-05-65) was found guilty of two counts of *kidnapping* (F2), six counts of *first-degree sexual assault* (F3), three counts of *aggravated first-degree sexual assault* (F2) and one count of *third-degree sexual assault* (F4) in connection with three separate cases. He was sentenced today to three consecutive life sentences plus 384 years in the Colorado Department of Corrections.

The attacks occurred in June 1993, September 1995 and October 1995 and each involved Gay breaking into a woman's home and attacking the women while they were sleeping. The cases were unsolved until a detective with the Denver Police Department's Cold Case Unit reviewed the cases and was able to link Gay to the attacks through DNA. The case was prosecuted by Chief Deputy DA Dawn Weber and Deputy DA Julie Hamel who are assigned to the Cold Case Project.

The victims and their families were present at the sentencing hearing today, where District Court Judge Shelley Gilman called the assaults the most brutal she and seen in her 13 years on the bench and said the multiple life sentences were richly deserved.

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The Cold Case DNA Project is an ongoing collaborative effort involving Denver Police detectives, the Denver Police Department Crime Lab and the Denver District Attorney's Office with grant funding through the National Institute of Justice.