



For Immediate Release
February 25, 2013

Former Stampeders football player found guilty of assault

Calgary, AB – Months of speculation around a high profile domestic violence case has come to an end following a verdict delivered Monday at the provincial court.

Joffrey Reynolds, 33, was found guilty of assault causing bodily harm following an alleged break-in and assault on his estranged girlfriend in July 2012. Reynolds initially appeared in court in August, and the case was adjourned until January.

While some excused Reynolds' abusive behaviour as the breaking point of the pressures of stress – the loss of his career and home, financial trouble, and no plans for the future – this verdict clearly shows that no matter the circumstance, there is no excuse for domestic violence.

“Family violence and abuse is prevalent in our community. 67 per cent of Canadians have known a woman who has been physically or sexually abused, with Alberta having the highest reported incidence at 74 per cent,” said Lisa Falkowsky, Executive Director, Calgary Women’s Emergency Shelter. “We would like to remind people that there is no excuse for abusive behaviour – there are always other choices. Perpetrators of abuse and the victims can reach out to resources available here in our community.”

Celebrity or not, domestic violence knows no boundaries. It can happen to anyone – from any end of the social spectrum. In our city alone, Calgary Police Service responds to more than 16,500 domestic violence related calls each year. The more shocking fact is that there are even more cases that go unreported. Approximately 30 per cent of families across Alberta experience some type of abuse, but are often silenced and have to endure this in isolation.

The community can learn a lot from the Reynolds case. He is being held accountable for his actions, because ultimately, there is no excuse for domestic violence. This case should also act as a reminder to those who are perpetrators of abuse – it’s time to take action. No means no, and if you feel like you’re going to hurt your partner, stop. Get help.

While this incident is high profile, victims could be your neighbour, family member, friend or colleague. Friends and families of both victims and perpetrators need to take an active role; everyone needs to speak out and call for help. In addition to Calgary Police Service, there are numerous help lines and resources available in the city.

If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic or sexual violence, there is help available: dial 911, Connect Family & Sexual Abuse Network (403) 237-5888 (Toll Free: 1-877-237-5888); 24-hour Family Violence Helpline (403) 234-SAFE (7233); Family Violence Information Line 310-1818 (Toll Free); Distress Centre (403) 266-HELP (4357). Please, help us to break the silence.

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The Calgary Domestic Violence Collective (CDVC) works with community partners to provide a coordinated response to domestic violence prevention and intervention in Calgary. It works to help prevent domestic violence through increased public awareness, education, and improved legislation. **Representatives include:**



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AIDS Calgary Awareness Association, Alberta Child and Youth Services, Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, Alberta Employment and Immigration, Alberta Health Services: Addictions and Mental Health, Aventa Addiction Treatment for Women, Awo Taan Healing Lodge, Brenda Strafford Chair in the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary, Brenda Strafford Society for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Calgary and Area Child and Family Services, Calgary Chinese Elderly Citizens' Association, Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse, Calgary Counseling Centre, Calgary Immigrant Women's Association, Calgary Legal Guidance, Calgary Police Services- Domestic Conflict Unit, Calgary Sexual Health Centre, Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter, Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family, Chinese Community Response to Family Violence, Calgary Action Committee on Housing and Homelessness, Community Corrections and Release Programs Branch, Alberta Solicitor General, Community Crisis Society of Strathmore: Wheatlands Shelter, CONNECT Family and Sexual Abuse Network, Developmental Disabilities Resources Centre of Calgary, Discovery House Family Violence Prevention Society, Distress Centre, Ethno-Cultural Council of Calgary, HomeFront, Jane M. Oxenbury, M.Ed., R. Psych., Edan Counseling Associates, Jewish Family Service Calgary, Kerby Centre, Legal Aid Alberta, Multiple Sclerosis Society Calgary and Area Chapter, Peer Support Services for Abused Women, Rowan House Emergency Shelters, Servants Anonymous Society, Sonshine Community Services, United Way of Calgary and Area, Women's Centre of Calgary, Youville Recovery Residence for Women, YWCA Banff, YWCA of Calgary, or YWCA Emergency Shelter: Sheriff King Home