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**FORMER KARATE INSTRUCTOR SENTENCED TO EIGHT YEARS IN
PRISON FOR SEXUALLY ABUSING YOUNG GIRLS**
Defendant Assaulted Victims When They Attended Karate Lessons In The Bronx

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a former karate instructor has been sentenced to eight years in prison for sexually abusing two young girls.

District Attorney Clark said, “The defendant took advantage of his position as an instructor and adult, and sexually assaulted two girls when they attended karate lessons at a center in the Bronx. These events have been very painful and traumatic to the victims and their families. Hopefully this sentence brings some justice to the innocent children and their loved ones who still struggle emotionally.”

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Anthony Gonzalez, 38, of 990 Leggett Avenue, was sentenced on October 15, 2018 by Administrative Judge Robert E. Torres to eight years in prison and 10 years post-release supervision. The defendant will also have to register as a sex offender. Gonzalez pleaded guilty to first-degree Sexual Abuse and second-degree Course of Sexual Conduct against a Child on September 25, 2018 before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Ralph Fabrizio.

According to the investigation, on January 17, 2018 at the USA Martial Arts Fitness Academy at 914 Prospect Avenue, the defendant, who was volunteering as an instructor at the time, sexually abused a six-year-old girl who was taking classes at the center. Gonzalez took the young girl to the bathroom, closed the door and touched her genitals. He then told the victim not to tell anyone. The young girl eventually told her mother what Gonzalez had done to her and the mother called the police.

During the course of the investigation it was revealed that the defendant also sexually abused a five-year-old girl multiple times between November 15, 2016 and June 26, 2017 at the school. That child had not come forward because she was afraid to tell anyone.

The case was prosecuted by Danielle Pascale, Deputy Bureau Chief of the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau and Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth Lynch, under the supervision of Rachel

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Ferrari, Chief of the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau, and the overall supervision of Joseph Muroff, Chief of the Special Victims Division.

District Attorney Clark thanked Detective Julia Watson and Police Officer Gabriel Baaith of the Bronx Child Abuse Squad as well as the Bronx Child Advocacy Center for their assistance with the case.

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