

NEWS ARTICLES ABOUT DANIEL SAVALA CASE

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By LEILA KHEIRY, Daily News Staff Writer

On Thursday, Superior Court Judge William Carey approved the release of a 56-year-old Texas missionary facing 11 counts of sexual abuse of a minor for crimes alleged to have occurred in Ketchikan in the mid-1990s. Daniel Savala will be allowed to return to Texas for a month but must post \$5,000 cash bail before leaving jail and another \$5,000 within two weeks, Carey ordered during Thursday's bail hearing. The defendant also must turn over his passport, avoid contact with anyone younger than 18, and remain with his **third-party custodian, fellow missionary Daniel Young**. Savalas attorney, Julie Willoughby of Juneau, said that Savalas mother died March 22, and Savala -- who had been her primary caregiver -- needed to return to Texas to make arrangements for her effects. She said Savala and Young would stay in Savalas Houston home while awaiting the May 8 trial. She requested that the court reduce Savalas bail from \$25,000 to \$10,000, with a 10-percent posting, which would mean \$1,000 cash. Prosecutor James Scott said he was "hard-pressed" to object to most of Willoughby's bail request, partly because Savala has no prior criminal record. Scott said he was primarily concerned that Savala might try to flee. "We know he's widely traveled and has friends all over the world," Scott said, adding that Savala might decide he didn't want to face trial. Scott said he wanted more than \$1,000 cash posted, hoping it would encourage Savalas to return. Young was questioned in court and said he understood the requirements of a third-party custodian. He said he would contact authorities immediately if Savala disappeared. **Young said he ran a college-based ministry at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, but would be able to telecommute while supervising Savala.** Scott said he had no objections to Young as a third-party custodian. Carey agreed that Young appeared dependable but added that he also was concerned about Savala disappearing before the trial. "If somebody wants to hit the road, they'll hit the road," Carey said, despite a reliable third-party custodian before approving \$10,000 bail. The alleged crimes occurred between 1995 and 1997 when Savala visited Ketchikan and temporarily worked with youth at Clover Pass Community Church. At the time, **the alleged victims were between 13 and 15, according to court records.**

3/24/2012

KETCHIKAN (KDN) -- A bail hearing is scheduled for next Thursday for the court to consider releasing a 56-year-old man facing **11 counts of sexual abuse of a minor**, crimes that allegedly took place in the mid-1990s. During a hearing Friday, Superior Court Judge William Carey set Daniel Savalas's bail hearing for 2 p.m. Thursday in Ketchikan Superior Court. Speaking by telephone, Savalas attorney, Julie Willoughby of Juneau, said a proposed third-party custodian would be flying here from Texas, where Savala lives, for the hearing. The alleged crimes occurred between 1995 and 1997 when Savala visited Ketchikan and worked temporarily with youth at Clover Pass Community Church. At the time, the victims were between 13 and 15, according to court records. Following his recent indictment, **Savala was arrested in**

Texas and extradited to Ketchikan. He remains in custody at Ketchikan Correctional Center on \$25,000 bail. Prosecutor James Scott said during Friday's hearing that the case against Savala likely will include evidence of **Savala's alleged "grooming behavior" toward teenage boys.** Savala's trial is set for May 8.

7/21/2012

KETCHIKAN (KDN) -- A Texas man who worked with youth at a local church in the 1990s this week pleaded guilty to a felony sexual offense. **Under the plea agreement, ten other charges will be dropped against Daniel Savala, 56, who will serve 90 days in jail.** Sentencing is set for Oct. 8 at 10 a.m. in Ketchikan Superior Court. Savala, free on \$10,000 bail in Texas, had pleaded innocent and was scheduled to go to trial in August. But court records show that Tuesday, he changed his plea to guilty of a single count of inappropriate contact with someone under 16. He attended Tuesday's change of plea hearing by telephone. **In this case, according to Assistant District Attorney James Scott, that meant touching someone's genitals.** Scott said Friday that Savala's plea was to "a single representative count." He had been charged in March with 11 counts of third-degree sexual abuse of a minor in incidents alleged to have occurred in Ketchikan between 1995 and 1997. According to Alaska State Troopers, Savala allegedly engaged in sexual contact with several victims 13 to 15 years old while he was in his late 30s and early 40s. He had been working temporarily at Clover Pass Community Church. Church officials have said Savala never lived full-time in Ketchikan and never was a church staff member. He visited Ketchikan several times, working with youth at the church and occasionally preaching.

A victim came forward after adulthood and made the allegation; others "followed suit," troopers said at the time. Because the crime occurred in the 1990s, Scott said Savala was subject to the laws and sentencing laws of 1995. "By today's standards, he is receiving what I'm concerned will strike people as lenient," Scott said Friday, but it was probably appropriate for the law at the time. Today, such a plea would yield a mandatory minimum sentence. Then, Scott said the sentence would have been zero to two years, and it was routine to serve three to six months for such an offense. If Judge William Carey approves the agreement at sentencing, Savala will serve three months, with the remainder of the two-year sentence suspended. The conviction, Scott said, would "get him out of the youth ministry" business. Savala remains in Texas but will report for jail and serve 90 days in Alaska. Savala's attorney, Julie Willoughby of Juneau, did not return a telephone call seeking comment.