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# Ex-US Rep. Anthony Weiner Pleads Guilty To Sexting Teen

By **William Gorta**

Law360, New York (May 19, 2017, 11:46 AM EDT) -- Former U.S. Rep. Anthony Weiner pled guilty in a New York federal court on Friday to one count of transferring obscene material to a minor for sexting a 15-year-old girl.

Weiner faces up to 10 years in prison on the charge, but in a deal with prosecutors, agreed to a sentence ranging from 21 to 27 months in prison. Weiner waived his right to appeal any sentence of 27 months or less and also agreed to a fine of up to \$350,000. He will also be required to register as a sex offender.

The government, in a single-count information, charged that in January 2016 through at least March 2016, Weiner used messaging and video chat applications to send explicit pictures to the teenager and direct her to engage in sexual conduct.

The former congressman, wearing a dark blue suit, a somber maroon tie and his wedding band, wept as he admitted to sending obscene pictures via social media to the teenager. He told U.S. District Judge Loretta A. Preska during a brisk plea hearing that he compulsively sought attention from women who contacted him on social media, adding that his "destructive impulses brought great devastation to his family and friends" and scuttled his career in public service.

He said he knew the girl was just 15, but participated in obscene conversations with her just as he had done and continued to do with adult women.

"I know this was as morally wrong as it was unlawful," Weiner told Judge Preska, who accepted his plea.

He said that he had entered into intensive treatment and "found the courage to take a moral inventory" of his defects.

"I accept full responsibility for my conduct. I have a sickness, but I do not have an excuse," he said. "I apologize to everyone I hurt. I apologize to the teenage girl I mistreated so badly."

Weiner faced a 10-year statutory maximum but the government agreed to seek a range of 21 to 27 months, a fine of \$35,000 to \$350,000 and forfeiture of his iPhone.

"Today, former Congressman Anthony Weiner admitted and pled guilty to sending sexually explicit images and directions to engage in sexual conduct to a girl he knew to be 15 years old," Acting Manhattan U.S. Attorney Joon H. Kim said in a statement. "Weiner's conduct was not only reprehensible, but a federal crime, one for which he is now convicted and will be sentenced. We thank the FBI and the NYPD for their work in this investigation."

Weiner is due to be sentenced Sept. 8 by U.S. District Judge Denise Cote.

After signing a \$150,000 personal recognizance bond, he grabbed a handful of tissues before he was whisked out of court and into a waiting car.

He would need the tissues. After Weiner's plea, his wife, Huma Abedin, who was a close aide to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, filed for divorce in New York Supreme Court, according to

reports in the New York Daily News and New York Post.

Weiner, who represented parts of Brooklyn and Queens in Congress, resigned in 2011 after his first sexting scandal broke. He fell further from grace when his internet sex life derailed his 2013 mayoral bid. And, in August 2016, he sent a woman a picture of his crotch that showed his infant son sleeping next to him.

Weiner is represented by Arlo Devlin-Brown and Paul F. Downs of Covington & Burling LLP.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Amanda Kramer and Stephanie Lake.

The case is U.S. v. Weiner, case number 1:17-cr-00307, in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

--Editing by Emily Kokoll.

*Update: This story was updated with more information about the case and to include reports that Weiner's wife filed for divorce.*

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