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PROFESSOR PEARSON COMMENTS IN BLOOMBERG NEWS ON SEX-ABUSE CASE INVOLVING WIFE WITH DEMENTIA

Henry Rayhons of Duncan, Iowa is awaiting trial on felony charge that he raped his wife at a nursing home where she was living. The State of Iowa vs. Henry Rayhons offers a rare look into a complex and thinly explored dilemma that will arise with increasing frequency as the 65-and-over population expands and the number of people with dementia grows.



“Any partner in a marriage has the right to say no,” said Katherine C. Pearson, who teaches and writes about elder law at the Penn State Dickinson School of Law and reviewed the Rayhons case at the request of Bloomberg News. “What we haven’t completely understood is, as in this case, at what point in dementia do you lose the right to say yes?”

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CONTACT INFO

P 717-240-5000
F 717-241-3503
E DICKINSONLAW@PSU.EDU
DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY