



Carlisle Man Convicted, Sentenced to Life in Prison for Sexual Assault of Children

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Late yesterday evening, after a three-day trial, a Warren County jury convicted Ronald Rowland, 69, of Carlisle, Ohio, of seven counts of forcible rape (F-1), one count of rape of a child under 13 (F-1), and two counts of gross sexual imposition (F-3). Judge Donald E. Oda II immediately sentenced Rowland to life in prison, with his first opportunity for parole in 56 years. Rowland was also designated a Tier III sexually-oriented offender.

Rowland's abuse of two female victims occurred between 2009 and 2017, and began when the first victim was 9 years old. Rowland took her into the shed at the back of his property in Carlisle and asked her to show him her new training bra. Rowland reached under her shirt and squeezed her breast and nipple. He told her she was becoming a woman now.

Rowland's abuse of the second female victim began when she was 12 years old, in his bedroom. Rowland told the girl that he would be her teacher and touched her outside and inside her vagina with his fingers. Rowland's abuse of this victim continued for years until she turned 16, and included five counts of forcible vaginal intercourse and 2 counts forcible penetration of her vagina with a sex toy. These incidents occurred in a shed behind Rowland's house, in his bedroom, in an addition on the back of his house, in his living room, at a rental house in Franklin, and at the victim's home in Franklin Township.

In March of 2018, the first victim disclosed Rowland's abuse to her mother and later to the second victim. The second victim then disclosed to them her years of abuse. The girls went to the Emergency Department at Dayton Children's Hospital, who referred them to the Child Advocacy Center of Warren County where the girls were interviewed by a trained forensic interviewer. The second victim subsequently recorded a telephone call to Rowland during which he denied touching the first victim, but apologized to second victim and told her he didn't know why he had done what he did to her.

"Rowland preyed on two little girls who trusted him. For years, he used that trust to his advantage to hide his horrific sexual assaults against them. He rightfully deserves to spend the rest of his life in prison," said Warren County Prosecutor David P. Fornshell.

Fornshell commended Warren County Sheriff's Office Detectives Nick Behymer and Mark Purdy, Assistant Prosecutor Travis J. Vieux, Victim Witness Coordinator Melissa Kennard, and Legal Assistant Ginger Weigel for their work on the case.



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