

Franklin Man Sentenced to Life in Prison for Rape of Two Boys

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Paul D. Johnston, Jr., 42, of Franklin was convicted of two counts of rape of a child under the age of 13, and seven counts of gross sexual imposition following a trial to Warren County Common Pleas Judge Robert W. Peeler. Johnston was sentenced to life in prison. His first opportunity for parole will be in 10 years.

In March 2019, the older of the two victims reported the abuse to the Carlisle Police Department. The victim reported that Johnston had engaged in sexual conduct with him from the ages of 11 to 15. Following an investigation, the younger victim came forward, reporting abuse from the ages of 6 to 11. Johnston abused the victims at his residence in Carlisle from 2011 to 2016. Both victims reported that Johnston claimed he had experience as an emergency medical technician to gain access to the children.

Judge Peeler heard the testimony of the witnesses and found Johnston guilty of two counts of rape of a child under the age of 13 (F1) and seven counts of gross sexual imposition (F3). Johnston was designated a Tier III sexual offender and was ordered to register for life.

“The level of depravity that Johnston exhibited with these two boys is truly sickening. ‘Abuse’ is too kind of word to describe his actions. He’s earned every single day of his sentence,” said Warren County Prosecutor David P. Fornshell.

Fornshell commended Carlisle Police Department Officer David Czarnota, and Warren County Prosecutor’s Office Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Travis Vieux, Victim Witness Coordinator Melissa Kennard, and Legal Assistant Ginger Weigel for their work on the case.



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