

News Release

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Charleston County Jury Convicts Jeremiah Turner on Four Counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in the First Degree and one Count of Lewd Act Upon a Minor

Charleston, S.C. – A Charleston County jury found Jeremiah Turner, (DOB 11/10/1984) guilty of four (4) counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in the First degree (CSC 1st) and one (1) count of Lewd Act Upon a minor after less than one hour of deliberation. Upon the conviction, Circuit Court Judge J.C. Nicholson, Jr. sentenced Turner to a term of thirty (30) years imprisonment.

Ninth Judicial Circuit Solicitor Scarlet A. Wilson noted that, “of all the cases we prosecute, these are the most difficult. It’s hard to fathom the abuse that some children suffer. We are grateful that the jury didn’t accept the defendant’s attempt to blame the victim.”

In his opening statement, Assistant Solicitor Rutledge DuRant told the jury that, “the case was discovered simply because someone asked the child a question.”

The allegations against Jeremiah Turner arose when the Department of Social Services (DSS) began an investigation due to a report of child abuse and neglect. The case was subsequently referred to the North Charleston Police Department (NCPD). The investigation by NCPD revealed the ongoing sexual abuse Turner inflicted upon a six year old child.

Turner, 26, was arrested on September 8, 2008, and confessed to the abuse.

The victim now 8 years old took the stand on Monday afternoon and described the ongoing sexual assaults between February and September, 2008.

“It’s always difficult when a child of tender years has to go through the court process, but we are pleased with the outcome,” said Managing Assistant Solicitor Debbie Herring-Lash, head of the Ninth Circuit Solicitor’s Special Victim’s Unit.

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