

News Release

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North Charleston man pleads guilty to two counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in the 1st Degree

Charleston, S.C. – Circuit Court Judge Roger M. Young, Sr., accepted a guilty plea from Larry Walker (DOB 12/28/1970) on Monday morning, as Walker was scheduled to face a jury. Walker pled guilty to two counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor-1st Degree and one count of Distribution of Imitation Controlled Substance. Judge Young sentenced Walker to thirty (30) years on each count of CSC to run concurrent. Ninth Judicial Circuit Solicitor Scarlet A. Wilson noted, “Larry Walker, and those like him are the reason it is so important for us to have a Special Victim’s Unit here in the Ninth Circuit. It takes dedication and expertise to work with victims who have been damaged by years of abuse and who have been taught to fear law enforcement and the courts. Judge Young’s sentence validated these young girls’ trust and hopefully will send a strong message.”

Managing Assistant Solicitor Debbie Herring-Lash, head of the Ninth Circuit Solicitor’s Special Victim’s Unit, told the court that Larry Walker began sexually assaulting the victim when she was just five years old. Law enforcement became involved on April 13, 2009, when the victim confided the abuse to a social worker at Palmetto Behavior Health. Shortly after this disclosure, the girl’s older sister also came forward. The investigation by the North Charleston Police Department “NCPD” revealed the ongoing sexual assaults Walker inflicted upon the two young girls between July 26, 1996 and January 25, 2002.

According to Herring-Lash, they were afraid to tell anyone about the abuse because one of the girls was beaten by the defendant and feared authorities would take her and her sister away from their mother and that they would end up in foster care. Walker also threatened one of the girls if she told anyone.

The victims, now 17 and 18 years old, cooperated with the Special Victim’s Unit and were prepared to testify against Walker this week. Their mother was also present. Walker opted to forgo the trial and admitted his guilt. When asked by the Court if there were a reason that the judge should not sentence him to the full 30 years, Walker gave no response.

Walker’s criminal record consists of an Assault and Battery of High and Aggravated Nature (ABHAN), Shoplifting and Disorderly Conduct in 1990, Larceny of Bicycle,

Strong Armed Robbery and Obstructing Police in 1991, Trespassing in 1993, Drugs Possession in 2000, Simple Possession of Marijuana and Hindering Officers in 2001, Resisting Arrest in 2002, and a Drug Charge in 2003.

“This is an example of how difficult it is for victims of sexual abuse to come forward. Mr. Walker received the punishment he deserved for pain and suffering he put upon these children,” said Herring-Lash.

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