

# *News Release*

For Immediate Release

April 16, 2015

## **Convicted and Registered Sex Offender Johnny Tamar Brown Sentenced to Life Without Parole**

**Charleston, S.C.** – Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that on April 15, 2015, a Charleston County jury found Johnny Tamar Brown (dob 9-16-79) guilty of two counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in the 1st Degree and one count of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree regarding a sexual assault that took place in June of 2013. Solicitor Wilson stated, “We sought the mandatory life without parole sentence to stop this predator. The whole case is sickening and made even worse by the fact that the defendant was a registered rapist being ‘monitored’ while abusing this child.”

In June of 2013, the victim, who was then 13 years old, was home babysitting her little sister when the defendant who was an acquaintance of her mother stopped in to visit. The defendant forced the victim on her mother’s bed and sexually assaulted her in the presence of her two year old sister. The assault came to light when the victim’s mother returned to the home to find the victim crying. The two year old described the situation to the mother with enough clarity that the mother was able to seek medical help at the Medical University of South Carolina. Forensic evidence corroborated the assault.

Assistant Solicitor, Debbie Herring-Lash and Shannon Elliott prosecuted Brown. “This case had many complicated, technical issues and each agency involved helped get us what we needed to convict the Defendant. The Charleston County Sheriff’s office, the Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston County School District, SLED, the SC Department of Probation, Pardon and Parole, Dee Norton Lowcountry Children’s Center all came together to help us overcome major issues. Without all of their help supporting the investigation and the victim a guilty verdict would have been impossible.” said Assistant Solicitor Elliott. Elliott noted, “This little girl’s strength and resilience is awe inspiring.”

The jury returned its verdict Wednesday afternoon. The defendant had a prior record that included a conviction in 1997 for criminal sexual conduct with a minor in the first degree and two counts of burglary from 2007 and 1008. As required by the Solicitor’s Life Without Parole Notice, Judge Deadra Jefferson sentenced Brown to life without the possibility of parole. Assistant Public Defender Charles Cochran represented the defendant.

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