

# *News Release*

For Immediate Release  
December 15, 2010

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## **Sex Offender sentenced to three terms of life without the possibility of parol for Criminal Sexual Conduct case.**

**Moncks Corner, S.C. – December 15, 2010**

It took a Berkeley County jury just forty minutes to find a Summerville man who was already a registered sex offender guilty of all eight charges he faced for abusing three minor victims. Ronald Lee McCauley was found guilty of three counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in the First Degree, two counts of Lewd Act Upon a Child and three counts of Unlawful Conduct Toward a Child. Circuit Court Judge Kristi L. Harrington sentenced McCauley to three terms of life without the possibility of parole (“LWOP”), for the three counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor and the maximum sentence for each of the remaining charges.

McCauley had previously been convicted of similar charges and was sentenced to prison. Upon release in 2006, he was placed on the sex offender registry. Managing Assistant Solicitor Debbie-Herring-Lash, said the conviction was the result of the courageous young victims who testified during the two day trial. Herring-Lash who heads up the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Solicitors Office Special Victim Unit, prosecuted the case with Assistant Solicitor Anne Williams. McCauley physically and sexually assaulted the three young victims repeatedly in 2007 and 2008. The assaults occurred in his Summerville home and the home of the children’s mother.

Testimony revealed that McCauley befriended the victims’ mother who knew he was a registered sex offender. Despite knowing of his previous convictions, she then allowed him to become a frequent babysitter for her three young children. The mother was arrested for three counts of Unlawful Conduct Toward a child and those charges are pending. Even after one of the children disclosed the abuse, the mother still allowed McCauley back in the home. Assistant Solicitor Anne Williams said she was relieved that McCauley would spend the rest of his life behind bars and never be able to hurt another innocent victim in Berkeley County or anywhere else for that matter.

Besides the life sentences, McCauley was sentenced to fifteen years for each of the two counts of Lewd Act upon a child, and ten years each for the three counts of Unlawful Conduct toward a child. He was previously convicted of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a minor in the Second Degree, Criminal Sexual Conduct in the Third Degree, and Dissemination of Obscenity.