

TRUMBULL COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Dennis Watkins, Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE: Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Child rapist gets 20-year to life sentence



A Warren man today was given a life prison sentence with his first chance at parole coming after serving 20 years in a child rape case.

David Varner, 46, had pleaded guilty last month to two counts rape and one count gross sexual imposition in the Christmas Eve 2023 sexual attack of an 8-year-old female relative.

Trumbull County Common Pleas Court Judge Sean J. O'Brien also declared Varner a Tier 3 sexual offender meaning if he ever gets out of prison, the defendant will have to register with the local sheriff's office four times per year for the rest of his life.

Assistant Prosecutor Gabriel Wildman said the state had agreed to a 15-year to life sentence in a plea deal arrangement, but Judge O'Brien said he was appalled by the facts of the case after seeing the background investigation.

"I can't think of a worse crime that has been committed while I have been on this bench," said Judge O'Brien who added prison time to his sentence.

Family members of the victim were in the courtroom but did not choose to speak.

For more information, contact Guy M. Vogrin, investigator / public information officer for the Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office at 330-675-2485.