

TRUMBULL COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Dennis Watkins, Prosecutor

Repeat Violent Offenders newsletter

UPDATE: July 16, 2025

Two sex offenders sent to prison, another convicted

Common Pleas Judge Sean J. O'Brien on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, sent two sex offenders to prison on indefinite sentences and convicted another of multiple sex offenses.

Here are details of the cases:



- David Lucero, 45, of Woodland Street, Newton Falls, received an indefinite seven-year to 10½-year prison sentence after he pleaded guilty on May 7 to eight counts of pandering sexually oriented matter involving a minor and two counts of illegal use of a minor in nudity-oriented material or performance. The case against Lucero stems from incidents that occurred between July and September 2023, where investigators found numerous images on Lucero's devices plus videos of juveniles engaged in sexual conduct with adults. The case stemmed from a tip to the Internet Crimes Against

Children task force based in Cuyahoga County, prosecutors stated. Lucero was declared a Tier 2 sex offender where he must register with the sheriff's office twice per year for 25 years.



- Mathew Hurst, 27, of Kinsman Street NW, Warren, pleaded guilty to a first-degree failure to notify the sheriff of a change of address. Hurst was declared a Tier 2 sexual offender after his 2012 Trumbull County Juvenile Court conviction for a rape offense. According to Hurst's attorney, Hurst was evicted from a sober house and was staying at a hotel in between residences and he didn't release he had to report the change of status. As a result of the first-degree felony conviction, Hurst was sentenced to an indefinite prison term of three to four-and-a-half years.
- Virgol Ball, 21, of Fourth Street SW, Warren, pleaded guilty to seven sex-related felony charges, including fifth-degree importuning, three counts of disseminating obscene matter harmful to juveniles and two counts of unlawful sexual conduct with a minor. Ball will submit to a background investigation prior to sentencing.

Prosecutors stated that Ball was having sexual contact with a female minor who was 13 at the time Warren police began their investigation in September 2023. The case also included incidents where the two exchanged pornographic images on their electronic devices, prosecutors stated. At sentencing, Ball will be declared a Tier 2 sexual offender, and he will have to register with the sheriff's office twice per year for 25 years.

Assistant Prosecutor Gabriel Wildman represented the state in all three cases.

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