

First Assistant
CHRISTOPHER D. BECKER

Chief-Civil Division
WILLIAM J. DANSO

Chief-Criminal Division
CHARLES L. MORROW

Senior Trial Attorney
MICHAEL A. BURNETT

Chief Appellate Division
RYAN J. SANDERS

Chief-Juvenile Division
STANLEY A. ELKINS

Investigators
MICHAEL C. KRAFCIK
ROY ANNE MALAK

Investigator/Public Information Officer
GUY M. VOGRIN



DENNIS WATKINS

Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney

4th FLOOR ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
160 HIGH STREET N.W. • WARREN, OHIO 44481-1092
PHONE: 330-675-2426 • FAX 330-675-2431
Prosecutor@co.trumbull.oh.us

Civil Division
LYNN B. GRIFFITH, III
SAMANTHA L. HECK
JASON M. TOTH
Criminal Division
DEENA L. DeVICO
GINA BUCCINO THOMAS
KEVIN J. TRAPP

Child Assault Division
DIANE L. BARBER, CHIEF
GABRIEL M. WILDMAN

Child Support Division
DAVID E. BOKER, CHIEF
JAMES F. LEWIS

May 8, 2026

Attorney Lisa Hoying
Parole Board Chair
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation
and Correction
P.O. Box 430
Columbus, OH 43216

IN RE: JOHN E. KOPP
Inmate # A406624
Trumbull County Case No. 2000 CR 683
Continued Hearing: March, 2026
CONVICTIONS: Rape (5 counts);
Pandering Obscenity Involving a Minor;
and Pandering Sexually Oriented Matter
Involving a Minor (9 counts)
SENTENCE: 15 years to Life
TIME SERVED: 25 1/2 years

Dear Attorney Hoying:

This office has written two previous letters, August 14, 2015 and June 19, 2020 to the Parole Board strongly opposing John Kopp (age 58) being released on parole. The purpose of this letter is to once again oppose parole for sexual predator, John E. Kopp ("Kopp").

On May 3, 2001, Kopp pleaded guilty to all counts contained in the Superseding Indictment: Counts 1, 2, & 3: Rape (Life), in violation of O.R.C.

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2907.02(A)(1)(b) & (2); Counts 4 & 5: Rape (F1), in violation of O.R.C. 2907.02(A)(2); Count 6: Pandering Obscenity Involving a Minor (F2), in violation of O.R.C. 2907.321(A)(1); and Counts 7 - 15: Pandering Sexually Oriented Matter Involving a Minor (F2), in violation of O.R.C. 2907.322(A)(1). Kopp waived a pre-sentence investigation and the court sentenced him to five (5) years on each of Counts 6 through 15, to run concurrently; life imprisonment as to Counts 1 through 3, to run concurrently; ten (10) years as to Counts 4 & 5, to run concurrently to each other and concurrently to the sentence imposed on Counts 1 through 3. The sentences on Counts 6 through 15 and Counts 1 through 5 were ordered to be served consecutively to each other for an aggregate sentence of 15 years to Life. All of the rape counts pertain to the same victim, Kopp's minor stepdaughter, Diane Peyatt.

During the investigation, fourteen-year-old Diane disclosed that Kopp had been molesting her for the past five to seven years. The molestation included vaginal intercourse, anal intercourse, digital penetration and cunnilingus. Diane reported to investigators that Kopp would initiate the molestation by telling her he wanted to "talk" to her. He would then take her into either his bedroom or hers and lock the door. Other children in the household were interviewed and corroborated the fact that Kopp and Diane were alone in a locked room together many times. Diane also disclosed that Kopp would show her child pornography on the computer. Investigators seized and searched computers from the home and recovered 152 images containing child pornography. Diane was able to identify 13 of those images as images that Kopp had shown her.

Additionally, Kopp made admissions to a nurse at Belmont Pines Hospital that he had been molesting his stepdaughter since she was six years old but that he "just" started penetrating her in the last 3-4 years. Kopp also admitted that he had been receiving child pornography over his computer for the last five years. Kopp also made an unsolicited statement to a police officer during a court appearance that "I know I did it and am going to spend life in prison for it." Furthermore, after her disclosure, Diane underwent a physical examination which revealed physical findings consistent with sexual abuse.

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The evidence in this case was overwhelming. It would be unconscionable to release Kopp from prison at this time, or at any time in the future. He is a child pornographer, a pedophile, and a child rapist. When he was not molesting a child, he was looking at pictures of children being molested. He preyed on children who trusted him. His own stepdaughter was not safe from him. I believe the evidence in his case shows that no child would ever be safe around him should he be granted freedom. Therefore, I continue to strongly oppose his release.

Please find enclosed a packet of information and exhibits with respect to this case which includes the original indictment, statements given by the victim, her mother and her siblings; the police narrative; Kopp's admissions; BCI computer analysis report (exclusive of child pornography); medical records; and other information which you may find pertinent for your review.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,

GABRIEL M. WILDMAN
Assistant County Prosecutor
Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office