

**TRUMBULL COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE**

**Dennis Watkins, Prosecutor**

Repeat Violent Offenders newsletter

UPDATE: April 16, 2026

## **Sex offender from Niles gets 20- to 25-year prison sentence**

A Niles man on Thursday, April 16, 2026, received a consecutive, indefinite 20- to 25-year prison sentence and was declared a Tier 3 sexual offender after he pleaded guilty to eight felony charges linked to the sexual assaults of three children, including one young female relative whom he had sexually abused over five years beginning in April 2020.



Brian Christensen, 43, pleaded guilty to four counts of first-degree rape felonies and four counts of third-degree gross sexual imposition felonies. Trumbull County Common Pleas Judge Ronald J. Rice stated consecutive sentences were necessary because of the conduct of the defendant.

A victim impact statement was read from a 14-year-old female victim of Christensen's who was related to him. The lengthy letter described in detail her anxieties, fears and feelings of betrayal that was caused by what she termed the defendant's "devilish actions."

Assistant Prosecutor Gabriel Wildman said he agreed to the plea agreement -- which offset a potential April 27 jury trial -- to spare the young victims from testifying.

"This sentence is far too good for this defendant," Wildman said. "Testimony (at trial) would have shown that he is a sexual predator."

Judge Rice also commented on the offenses committed by Christensen, especially of the ones done to his relative.

"You violated that young lady for your own perverse needs," Judge Rice said. "This is one of the most despicable cases I have seen in the 32 years I have been a judge. You have violated the most sacred of trusts."

The other two female victims in the case were also between the ages of nine and 13 when the incidents occurred.

As a Tier 3 sexual offender, Christensen will have to register with the sheriff's office four times per year for the rest of his life.

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