



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GORHAM MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR AGGRAVATED CRIMINAL SEXUAL ASSAULT

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that a Gorham, Illinois man was sentenced to prison on July 13, 2016, for Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault.

Douglas E. Hinkle, Jr., 19, of Gorham, IL, who was charged in Jackson County Circuit Court with Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault, a Class X Felony, was sentenced to serve ten (10) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. The defendant will serve a period of Mandatory Supervised Release of three (3) years up to the rest of his Natural Life upon his release from the Department of Corrections. The defendant will have to serve a minimum of 85% of this sentence. The defendant will also have to register as a sex offender for the rest of his natural life.

On August 31, 2015, Deputies and Detectives with the Jackson County Sheriff's Department were dispatched to begin a possible sexual assault investigation. During the investigation, Detectives learned that the victim was profoundly mentally and physically disabled. Further, Detectives quickly learned that the defendant, who was related to the victim, was the possible suspect. Ultimately, the defendant was interviewed regarding the sexual assault. The defendant admitted that he engaged in sexual intercourse with the victim. Further, the defendant admitted that he knew the victim was profoundly disabled and that the sexual intercourse was forced upon the victim.

On January 21, 2016, the defendant entered into an "open plea" to Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault and a sentencing hearing was scheduled. The sentencing hearing occurred on July 13, 2016. Evidence and arguments were presented regarding aggravating and mitigating circumstances. On that date, the Court sentenced the defendant to the above term in prison.

This investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Department. Assistant State's Attorney Casey Bloodworth prosecuted this case.