

News Release

For Immediate Release
March 3, 2016.

Charleston County Jury Convicts Maurice Harris of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in the 2nd Degree and Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in the 3rd Degree.

Charleston, S.C. – Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that on March 2, 2016, a Charleston County jury found Maurice Harris (d.o.b. 9-4-69) guilty of two counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in the 2nd Degree and one count of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in the 3rd Degree regarding a sexual assault that took place in the summer of 2013.

In the summer of 2013, the victim, who was then 12 years old, was spending time in the defendant's home. The defendant initiated a pattern of sexual abuse that included fondling and sexual batteries over the course of the summer. This sexual abuse was committed in front of and witnessed by an eight year old child in the home. The assault came to light during a DSS investigation initiated at the request of a school employee.

Assistant Solicitors, Shannon Elliott and Truc Tran prosecuted Harris. "This molester is off the streets because two children had the courage and support to speak up for themselves. Without their bravery, this man would never have been held accountable for the crimes" said Assistant Solicitor Elliott.

The jury returned its verdict Wednesday evening. The defendant had a prior record that included criminal domestic violence and burglary. Judge Diane Goodstein sentenced him twenty years in prison. Solicitor Wilson stated, "These cases are among the toughest for our Special Victims Unit to prosecute and for juries to hear. The children were remarkable in their resilience. We are grateful the judge delivered the maximum sentence."

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