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Judge Orders Twenty Year Sentence for Man Convicted of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor

Charleston, S.C. – November 30, 2023 A Charleston County jury has found Emeric Hamilton guilty of one count of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in the Second Degree. The jury of ten men and two women returned the verdict after several hours of deliberation. Circuit Court Judge Jennifer McCoy sentenced Hamilton to the maximum of 20 years. Ninth Judicial Circuit Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson noted that, “Emeric Hamilton, and those like him are the reason it is so important for us to have a Special Victim’s Unit here in the Ninth Circuit. It takes dedication and expertise to work with victims who have been damaged by abuse. This conviction validates the victim’s trust in the judicial system. Judge McCoy’s sentence and will send a strong message to those who prey on vulnerable children.”

Trial Testimony revealed Emeric Hamilton approached the 11-year-old girl as she was walking down Alabama Street in North Charleston on April 18, 2019. Shortly thereafter, he took the young girl into his home and forcibly sexually assaulted her in his bedroom. The brave Victim immediately reported the incident to NCPD and was taken to MUSC where she received a sexual assault examination. The case went cold for nearly two years until DNA from the Victim’s sexual assault kit matched Hamilton’s profile in law enforcement’s database (the Combined DNA Index System known as CODIS). Detective Crider with the North Charleston Police Department wasted no time in reopening the investigation and obtained a search warrant for the defendant’s DNA for confirmation of the match. The trial lasted 2 days and included testimony from the Victim along with nurses and experts with MUSC and scientists from SLED.

The case was tried by Nicholas Harris and Lauren Mulkey Frierson, head of the Ninth Circuit Special Victim’s Unit. Frierson noted the victim’s tremendous bravery. “The Victim, now 17, had to relieve the details of this assault in a courtroom, testifying across the room from the defendant. We are very appreciative of the jury’s diligent deliberations in reaching a verdict that now allows the Victim closure and a sense of justice.”

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