

Daleville man pleads guilty to sexual assault on a child

Ebony Horton

ehorton@dothaneagle.com

OZARK — After looking into a 6-year-old's eyes and hearing how a grown man sexually abused her, Dale County District Attorney Kirke Adams doesn't believe even the largest sentence a Daleville man will get for pleading guilty to the crime will be fitting punishment.

Timothy O'Connor, 29, of Daleville, pleaded guilty on Monday to two counts of sexually abusing a child less

than 12 years of age.

He is expected to be sentenced to between 10 and 20 years in a state prison, the minimum and maximum for the crime, at a later date.

According to Adams, O'Connor confessed after being accused by the child's mother of sexually abusing the child on at least two occasions.

O'Connor's attorney, Donna Crooks, did not return a phone call for comment on Monday.

Adams said sexual abuse is prevalent and that the

public needs to understand the crimes are going on.

"This is so widespread. It's absolutely awful to stare at a young child who's been a victim time and time again and understand what they've been through," Adams said.

"There's nothing we can do to ever take away the pain or mental anguish."

Under state law, O'Connor is expected to serve the full sentence he receives from Dale County Circuit Judge P.B. McLaughlin because of the victim's age.