

## Ex-scoutmaster denied early release by parole board

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OZARK — Ozark resident Brian K. Gowan, the former scoutmaster convicted of sexual abuse and counts of child pornography, will stay in prison after being denied an early release by the state Board of Pardons and Parole in Montgomery on Wednesday.

Ozark police had raided Gowan's home in June 2003 and arrested him after confiscating more than 200 videotapes and other paraphernalia involving child pornography. Gowan pleaded guilty in November 2003 to first-degree sexual abuse, two counts of possession of child pornography and production of child pornography.

He was sentenced to consecutive 10 year sentences, Dale County District Attorney Kirke Adams said. All cases involved the same child.

Gowan was the scoutmaster of Troop 20 in Ozark, a group including boys between the ages of 11 and 17. Police told the *Dothan Eagle* in 2003 that the victim was not one of the boy scouts.

"I appreciate the parole board listening to our request and leaving this predator where he should be — prison," Adams said.

Adams said several people including the victim, himself, Victims of Crime and Leniency president Miriam Shehane and Janette Carr from the attorney general's office attended the hearing to protest Gowan's release.

Since the maximum amount of time between parole board hearings is five years, Gowan's next hearing is scheduled for 2012.