

# DOTHAN EAGLE 3/27/2009

## Sex offender gets 17 year prison sentence

By [EBONY HORTON](#)

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OZARK – A Daleville man who pleaded guilty last month to sexually abusing a 6-year-old girl was sentenced to more than 15 years in a state prison.

Dale County Circuit Judge P.B. McLauchlin sentenced Timothy O'Connor, 29, to 17 years in prison on Thursday. State law requires he serve the full sentence because of the child's age.

One of O'Connor's family members said the abuse stemmed from abuse O'Connor endured himself from a babysitter while he was younger.

O'Connor later developed a drinking problem, which defense attorney Donna Crooks said led to both instances of O'Connor sexually abusing the child.

The girl's mother said no problem or jail time could change what happened to her daughter.

"You promise to protect your children ... I witnessed this, and every time I go into my daughter's room, that's what I see. This will never go away, and he'll never get rid of this problem," she said.

After the mother's testimony, O'Connor said he accepted full responsibility for what he pleaded guilty to doing.

Both he and his attorney requested entrance into a rehabilitation program, which Dale County Circuit Judge P.B. McLauchlin said O'Connor could enter while in prison.

Crooks also asked that O'Connor be admitted into a community corrections program, which was denied.

### Reader Reactions

Posted by ( mreynolds917 ) on March 27, 2009 at 11:56 am

I wish to thank the Dale County Sheriff's Department, The District Attorney's office (Kirke Adams), and most of all, Investigator Harvey Mathis. My daughter is the victim, of this sexual abuse, and Investigator Mathis, stood beside my daughter and I, every

single step of the way. From the time I made the initial report, he worked diligently, to get all the paperwork completed, and evidence taken, and was ready to make an arrest in the matter of hours. Throughout the entire court process, which takes months, Investigator Mathis was always calling to check on me, and my daughter, and give me updates on the proceedings. During a time like this, a parent's worst nightmare, things can get very confusing, and he was always available to answer my questions and explain all the court procedures to me. Investigator Mathis literally stood beside me, through every court date, hearing, and the final sentencing. I feel that he did much more than what was expected, or required to do, which helped to give me some piece of mind. His heart is definitely in his work. Dale County should be so thankful to have such an amazing Investigator, putting monsters like this away... I know I am. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.