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# DOOTHEAN EAGLE

## Judge sentences Daleville man for raping girl, 6

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**OZARK** — A Daleville man was sentenced to 30 years in a state prison on Wednesday after a jury convicted him of raping a 6-year-old girl.

Ashley Paul Norris, 30, nodded his head and shook the hand of defense attorney

Everette Urech after Dale County Circuit Judge Ken Quattlebaum announced Norris' sentence.

Norris faced 20 years to life in prison for the conviction. Because of the child's age, Norris is expected to serve every day of the sentence.

Norris was arrested for raping the girl, now 10, in April

June on allegations he sexually abused a 3-year-old girl. He chose Wednesday not to testify in the case.

Lonnie Scott, who said he takes care of Norris' infant son, said he believed Norris' case was not properly investigated and that there was at least one other person who could be

guilty of raping the girl. Urech said he has filed a motion for a new trial.

But the girl's stepmother said she had no doubt Norris committed the crime.

The child's biological mother did not attend the sentencing hearing.

See SENTENCE, 5A

## Sentence

*continued from 1A*

"I understand (Norris) has a child and a family that's hurting, but my lit-

the girl has had all of her innocence taken away," the stepmother said. "All of her first experiences are gone. She will never ever ever get to experience a relationship without having to think about what has happened to

her." Dale County District Attorney Kirke Adams said Norris' case was worse than murder.

"In murder cases someone is dead," he said. "This little girl is 10. She has a long life to live with this."