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DOTHAN EAGLE

Man guilty of sodomizing Slocomb boy

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A Dothan man faces a minimum of 20 years in prison after a Geneva County jury found him guilty Wednesday of sodomizing a 6-year-old Slocomb boy.

William Filmore, an assistant district attorney for Geneva County, said a jury convicted Timothy Corlee of first-degree sodomy after about an hour and a half of deliberation. Slocomb police arrested Corlee Dec. 1, 2007, the same day as the offense.



Timothy Corlee

Filmore said Corlee was originally charged with first-degree sex abuse, along with the sodomy crime, but the sex abuse charge was dismissed before trial. He said the jury had several options to choose from, including first-degree sodomy, attempted sodomy and not guilty.

Lee Knowles, who represented Corlee during trial, could not be reached for comment.

Filmore said the boy, who is now an 8-year-old, testified in the trial.

According to a statement from Filmore, the prosecution contended Corlee was staying at a friend's house in Slocomb in December 2007, when he went into the boy's room and sodomized him on his bed. People at the home saw Corlee in the bedroom.

Filmore attributed key testimony from a Flowers hospital nurse within their sexual assault response team and a sexual assault nurse examiner as crucial to the conviction.

See **GUILTY, 6A**

Guilty

continued from 1A

He said testimony from the nurse and officials with the Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center helped show jurors sexual assaults really do happen.

"The average juror doesn't realize that one out of three girls, and one out of seven boys are sexually assaulted before they turn 16 years old," Filmore said. "People don't want to believe that this type of thing can happen."

Corlee will be sentenced at a later, undetermined date. Filmore said Corlee faces 20 years to life in prison for the class A felony conviction of first-degree sodomy, which he said has an enhanced sentencing range because the victim was under the age of 12.

Stephen Smith, who assisted in the prosecution of the case, said Corlee will remain held in the Geneva

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William Filmore
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County Jail on a \$50,000 bond until he's sentenced.

Daniel Killingsworth, 52, of Slocomb, already pleaded guilty to molesting the same boy.

"We're just glad the jury believed the little boy," Filmore said. "It's tough for a jury to sit there and listen to this kind of testimony."