

Level Plains man pleads guilty to rape of 9-year-old

Marcos Velasquez-Morales, 31, of Level Plains, pleaded guilty to raping a 9-year-old girl and was sentenced to a full 18 years in prison, according to authorities.

He was sentenced by Dale County Circuit Judge P.B. McLaughlin on Monday and is expected to serve all 18 years because of the victim's age.

According to a press release from the Dale County Sheriff's Office, Morales was an illegal alien from Mexico.

He had been deported from the U.S. in 2003, according to Immigration and Customs officials. He also could face charges of illegal re-entry into the U.S., according to the sheriff's office.