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Stokes gets 40 years for child sex crimes

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Reporter

Quentin Leon Stokes of Coffee Springs was sentenced to 40 years in prison for sexual assault charges against a minor at a court hearing last Wednesday in the Geneva County Courthouse.

Stokes, 50, was arrested in November 2008 and charged with a number of sexual assault felonies, including production and possession of child pornography, first-degree rape and first-degree sodomy. Stokes pled guilty to all listed charges in March.

Stokes will serve a 40-year sentence for each of the felony charges of first-degree rape and first-degree sodomy. In addition, Stokes was also sentenced to an additional 30 years for the production of child pornography and an additional 10 years for the possession of child pornography.

Stephen Smith, assistant district attorney, said all four sentences will be served concurrently with the 40-year sentence. Because the case involved a minor under the age of 12, Stokes would serve the sentence in its entirety without chance of early release.

Prior to the sentencing, Chief Deputy Tony Helms testified in court that a search warrant was served for Stokes' house on Nov.

18, 2008, just days after an investigation was launched into the case. Helms said the sheriff's department confiscated two computers, a digital camera, items of clothing described by the victim and a pornographic movie from the residence.

Ray Kilmer, a computer specialist with the Alabama Computer Forensic Laboratories, testified that upon receiving the computer, he found up to 19 images of child pornography on Stokes' computer hard drive. Smith explained that child pornography is legally defined as any pornographic material involving a child under the age of 12.

Attorney Tommy Scarborough, who represented Stokes, told the court that both he and his client knew the seriousness of the charges, but that Stokes did the right thing by confessing to his wrongdoings.

"He did accept responsibility," Scarborough said. "He didn't put the child through a long court case."

Scarborough suggested that Stokes, who had no criminal record prior to this, receive a lighter sentence than is considered typical for this types of case, asking for the sentence to be dropped to 20-22 years.

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