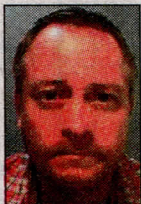


Ozark man gets 50 years for rape of mom, 8-year-old girl

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BY MATT ELOFSON
melofson@dothaneagle.com

A Dale County judge sentenced an Ozark man to 50 years in prison for the abductions and sexual assaults of an 8-year-old girl and her mother.



Pitts

District Attorney Kirke Adams said Circuit Court Judge Kimberly Clark sentenced 45-year-old David Laverne Pitts for seven felony charges, which included a 50-year

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prison term for first-degree rape. Adams said the adult victim testified during the sentencing hearing.

"I was just happy that our victim was able to tell the judge what happened, and we appreciate Judge Clark giving her all the time required so she could better understand what happened," Adams said. "It typically makes a case become a reality to the judge because they now can see far beyond the borders of a report."

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Kirke Adams,

Dale County district attorney

The abduction and sexual assault occurred July 24, 2014.

Former Ozark Police Chief Tony Spivey told the *Dothan Eagle* the suspect was already inside the victim's home after she had returned from being out.

Spivey told the *Eagle* the victim told police she and the girl were taken to a secluded area off Alabama Highway 123 North where they were held throughout the night and sexually assaulted.

Spivey said Pitts was armed with a knife and gun during the assault and abduction.

"I do want to thank law enforcement involved because after the crime was committed, the defendant fled to south Florida. It took really good law enforcement coordination to locate him and bring him back to Dale County where he would face justice," Adams said. "There's no sentence the court could've given to take away

what the victims went through, but certainly for the safety of the community, it was a very satisfying sentence for the state of Alabama and the citizens of Dale County."

Court records show Clark sentenced Pitts to 50 years for first-degree rape, 20 years for first-degree burglary, 20 years for sex abuse of a child less than 12 years old, 15 years each for two counts of second-degree kidnapping, 15 years for first-degree theft of property and 10 years for first-degree criminal mischief. All the sentences were ordered to be served concurrently and with the 50-year rape sentence.