

Geneva man found guilty of molesting 7-year-old girl

After a weeklong trial a Geneva County jury returned a verdict late Friday finding a Geneva man guilty of molesting a 7-year-old girl.

Court records show a jury found 47-year-old James Watson Campbell guilty of a felony charge of sex abuse of a child less than 12 years old. Campbell will be sentenced at a later date.

Geneva County District Attorney Kirke Adams said the victim was a 7-year-old girl at the time of the offense in the summer of 2014. Geneva police investigators arrested Campbell on June 30, 2015.

Adams said Circuit Court Judge P.B. McLaauchlin Jr. set what's referred to as a sentencing bond of \$50,000 upon the jury's guilty verdict. Adams said Campbell posted the bail, which led his office to file a bail revocation request.

Records show Adams requested the bail revocation by calling the defendant a potential flight risk since according to state law he's not eligible for any alternative sentencing such as probation or a split sentence due to the age of the victim in the conviction. Adams said the defendant faces an enhanced minimum sentence of 10 years and up to 20 years in prison for the sex abuse of a child less than 12 conviction.

Adams said the case was investigated by Geneva Police Capt. Ricky Morgan, and prosecuted by assistant district attorneys Cathey Berardi and David Rousseau.

Records show lawyers Jason Brogden, Robert Brogden, and Jeffery Hatcher all represented Campbell at trial, which was held at the Geneva County Courthouse last week.

Jason Brogden said their client maintains his innocence, and plans to appeal the conviction.