

Former Daycare Owner Gets 6 Years In Sexual Abuse of a Child Conviction

Darrell Snellgrove, 64, of Ariton and co-owner of Sandy Creek Daycare, was sentenced by Circuit Judge P.B. McLauchlin Jr. to six years in prison and his probation was denied.

Chief Assistant District Attorney Bill Filmore said, the crime is one of "the most heinous" he has seen.

"This is one of the most heinous crimes, unlike the family situation, this defendant and his wife held themselves out to the public as people you could trust your children to their care," Filmore said. "The mother of this four-year-old victim didn't know these people, but since they were in the business of childcare, she paid money to this daycare for them to care for her little girl. Instead of being cared for, this defendant sexually abused this child."

For such a crime, the state requested the maximum sen-

tence of 10 years.

The defense argued on the issue of probation that Snellgrove was 64 years old and in bad health and probably would not survive prison. Snellgrove continued to profess his innocence before McLauchlin, who explained his denial of probation by saying that, "the district attorney saw fit to bring these charges, the grand jury of

Dale County indicted you of these charges, and a jury of 12 people found you guilty. It would only take one juror to hang this case up, but all 12 found you guilty. This type of crime does not warrant probation."

McLauchlin denied probation, but did grant an appeal bond of \$50,000 allowing Snellgrove to remain out on bond pending an appeal.