

Man gets 31 years for rape of preteen girl

A 26-year-old Geneva County man will spend 31 years in prison for the rape of an 11-year-old girl, according to Bill Filmore, the chief assistant district attorney for Geneva and Dale counties.

Filmore said Dale County Circuit Judge P.B. McLaughlin sentenced Walter Brad Jackson to 31 years in prison for first-degree rape. Filmore said Jackson was a friend of the girl's older brother and had stayed in a home with the girl.

Filmore said Jackson had faced a minimum of 15 years in prison. He was indicted on the charge in October 2007, while a jury found him guilty of the crime in March.

Under a new state law, Jackson will serve the entire sentence without the opportunity for parole because the victim is under the age of 12, Filmore said.