

State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

Telephone: 864-898-5905
Telefax: 864-898-5798



Pickens County Courthouse
214 E. Main St., B-220
Pickens, SC 29671

Solicitor
W. Walter Wilkins

PRESS RELEASE
December 14, 2011

**Pickens Man Sentenced on Sex / Lewd Act, Committing Or Attempting Lewd Act
Upon Child Under 16**

MARK STANLEY PETERS, age 55, was convicted by a Pickens County jury on December 14, 2011 on two counts of Committing a Lewd Act Upon a Child Under 16 YOA, a violation of South Carolina Code § 16-15-140. PETERS was sentenced by the Honorable G. Edward Welmaker to 155 months in the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

Evidence presented at trial by Assistant Solicitor Jenny Barwick established that between the dates November 1, 2008 and December 24, 2008, the Defendant committed a lewd act on S.M.G., who was 8 years old at the time of the assault. Assistant Solicitor Barwick also established that on April 27, 2009, the Defendant committed a lewd act on A.M.J., who was 13 years old at the time of the assault. The victims were friends with the Defendant's two daughters (ages 5 and 11 at the time of the assaults) and the assaults occurred while the victims were staying overnight at the Defendant's residence. Both victims awoke in the middle of the night to the Defendant touching their private areas.

Detective Rita Burgess from the Pickens County Sheriff's Office was the detective on the case.