

State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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Solicitor
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PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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Pickens Man Sentenced on Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, First Degree

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that a Pickens County jury convicted the Defendant, Vernon Glen Evans, of criminal sexual conduct with a minor in the first degree. The Honorable Clifton B. Newman presided over the trial and sentenced the Defendant to thirty years of incarceration. The Defendant will have to serve at least 85% of his sentence at the South Carolina Department of Corrections before he is eligible for parole.

The case was tried by assistant solicitor, Sam Tooker. Over the course of trial, assistant solicitor Tooker call witnesses, including the minor victim, who testified about the relationship the Defendant cultivated with the victim and her sister. The Defendant, a close family friend of the victim's father, volunteered to babysit the victim and her sister on weekends, so the victim's father and step-mother could do work around their home. The Defendant used his position and access to the victim to sexually abuse her on several occasions. One of the occasions was witnessed by the victim's younger sister.

The children did not immediately reveal the abuse. However, when the girls finally disclosed, law enforcement was contacted and an investigation begun. The case was investigated by Det. Brian Swafford with the Pickens County Sheriff's Office. Det. Swafford sought the assistance of the Julie Valentine Center in Greenville, and the Julie Valentine Center supplied a specially-trained forensic interviewer to talk to the victim and her sister, a board-certified medical doctor to examine the Victim for injuries, and an expert in the field of child sexual abuse to assist at trial.