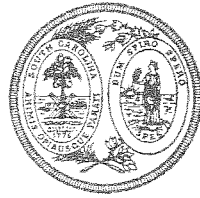


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Solicitor

W. Walter Wilkins

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**

**March 4, 2011**

**Authorities Search for Greenville Man Convicted of  
Sexually Assaulting 8-Year-old Girl**

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkin's office stated today that JUVENTINO ESCORZA, age 42, was convicted at trial on Tuesday, March 2, 2011. Escorza was found guilty of Criminal Sexual Conduct With Minor First Degree, a violation of South Carolina Code § 16-03-0655(A)(1). The defendant did not appear for trial and was tried in his absence. A warrant has now been issued for his arrest and authorities are trying to apprehend him. The charge of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor 1<sup>st</sup> Degree carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 25 years to life in prison. Once apprehended and sentenced, JUVENTINO ESCORZA will have to serve at least 85 % of his sentence before he becomes eligible for parole.

The State presented evidence at trial that Escorza repeatedly sexually assaulted an 8-year-old little girl in his home in Greenville County over a period of month between June 1, 2008 and September 2008. His sentence was sealed by the presiding Judge Edward Welmaker and will be read at a future sentencing hearing once the defendant is located.

The case was tried by Assistant Solicitor Christy Kednocker Sustakovitch.