

State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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Solicitor
W. Walter Wilkins

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

February 28, 2012

**Pickens Man Sentenced on Assault With Intent to Commit Criminal Sexual
Conduct with a Minor 1st Degree and Kidnapping**

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that WILLIAM CURTIS BOWENS, age 53, entered a guilty plea on February 27, 2012 in Pickens County on charges of Assault With Attempt to Commit Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor 1st Degree and Kidnapping and was sentenced to 17 years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections by the Honorable Letitia Verdin. WILLIAM CURTIS BOWENS will have to serve at least 85 % of the 17 year sentence before he becomes eligible for parole.

Evidence presented at the plea hearing by Assistant Solicitor Jenny Barwick established that on September 1, 2011, fifty-two year old WILLIAM CURTIS BOWENS called the 11 year-old female victim, who is a distant relative and neighbor, over to his residence where he was sitting outside. The defendant, who walks with a cane, asked the victim to help him get into the residence. As the victim did so, the defendant grabbed the victim around her neck and pushed her inside his residence, locking both the screen door and entry door behind him and blocking the victim's exit. The defendant then told the victim to take her clothes off. The victim was able to escape by pushing past the defendant. She ran to her house and told family members who notified the Easley Police.

The defendant is currently on the Sex Offender Registry. According to the Registry, the defendant was convicted in 1977 for incest with a 15 year old female when he was almost eighteen years of age. He was sentenced to 10 years on that charge.

