

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Contact: April Wiesner
(330) 643-8386

Life in Prison for Man Who Drugged, Raped Child

(December 19, 2013... Akron) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Judge Amy Corrigan Jones sentenced Corey Alan Welch, 49, of Poplar Street in Mansfield, to life in prison.

While spending the night at a female friend's house in Springfield Township, Welch drugged the friend's teenager. When the teenager appeared to have a seizure, the mother took the teen to the hospital, leaving Welch with her 12-year-old and six-year-old children. While alone with the children, Welch drugged and raped the 12-year-old. The child woke up naked with Welch taking pictures with his phone.

On November 15, Welch pleaded no contest to two counts of Rape, felonies of the first degree; Kidnapping, a felony of the first degree; Illegal Use of a Minor in Nudity Oriented Material; a felony of the second degree; two counts of Corrupting Another with Drugs, felonies of the second degree; Gross Sexual Imposition, a felony of the third degree; and two counts of Sexual Battery, felonies of the third degree.

Welch will be not eligible for parole until 2054, when he is 90 years old. Welch is now a Tier III sex offender, which requires lifetime address and employment registration if he ever gets out of prison.