

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Max Sentence for Akron Foster Father

(June 13, 2012... Akron) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Judge Tammy O'Brien sentenced Roger Ball, 65, of Holly Avenue in Akron, to life in prison. He will be eligible for parole after serving 35 years. This is the maximum sentence allowed.

From 2007 until 2010, Ball sexually molested five boys who were living in his home as foster children. The boys ranged in age at the time from five to 11 years old.

"This was a truly horrific crime in which someone took advantage of his position and sexually abused young boys in his care – boys who were already dealing with a multitude of issues," said Prosecutor Walsh. "I am very pleased that the judge ordered such a lengthy sentence that this defendant cannot apply for parole unless he lives to be at least 100."

On May 8, a jury found Ball guilty of Rape, a felony of the first degree; Sexual Battery, a felony of the second degree; and five counts of Gross Sexual Imposition, felonies of the third degree.

Ball was a foster parent for many years before this abuse was discovered. Anyone who believes their son may have been victimized by Ball should contact the Akron Police Department at (330) 375-2552.