

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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CHILD MOLESTER SENTENCED TO 50 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON

(May 5, 2010, Akron) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Michael Winland, 37, formally of Hazel Street in Akron, pled guilty late yesterday to three counts of Rape of children under 13, felonies of the first degree, Gross Sexual Imposition on a child under 13, a felony of the third degree, two counts of Endangering Children, felonies of the fourth degree, and Pandering Obscenity, a felony of the fourth degree. Judge Mary Margaret Rowlands ordered that the sentences on the Rapes and Gross Sexual Imposition run consecutive to each other and sentenced Winland to 50 years to life in prison. He was also classified a Tier III sex offender.

Walsh said, "Winland is a sexual predator and a pedophile and won't even have the possibility of parole until he is 87-years old. I expect that he will spend the rest of his days locked away from society, and especially those he victimized."

Winland's plea reflects his involvement in the ongoing sexual abuse of four children under the age of 13. Winland also possessed a large amount of child pornography. The victims and their families have sought privacy in this situation and chose not to address Winland in open court.

Winland's companion, Stephennie Murphy, 31, was also charged and is scheduled for trial on June 28, 2010, before Judge Rowlands.