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NEWS
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Hudson Rapist's Parole Denied

Ward Humberson to spend at least three more years in prison

AKRON, OHIO – March 21, 2013 – Summit County Prosecuting Attorney Sherri Bevan Walsh today announced that, at a full board hearing of the Ohio Parole Board, her office successfully fought the release from prison of Ward Melvin Humberson, 74, formerly of Hudson. Humberson pleaded guilty in 1996 to Rape, a felony of the first degree.

The Ohio Parole Board initially recommended Humberson be released from prison. The Summit County Prosecutor's Office and Humberson's victims, however, strongly objected to the release and requested a full board hearing. A representative from the Prosecutor's Office and members of the victim's family presented arguments against Humberson's release and successfully blocked his release for at least another three years. This office, as well as the victims, ardently believes Humberson should serve his entire sentence

Humberson was caught by his son in the act of simulating sex with a young female relative who was crying out for him to stop. Detectives from the Hudson Police Department learned that this was not the first time Humberson had acted inappropriately with the girl. Humberson confessed to repeatedly raping and molesting the girl, as well as molesting several other young relatives.

“When Ward Humberson confessed to sexually assaulting his victim, he showed absolutely no remorse and was, in fact, arrogant, as if this young girl and the other young girls he assaulted over the years had intentionally seduced him,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “Humberson is the typical child molester who blames the victim for ‘asking for it.’ His lack of contrition or even an understanding that what he did was wrong leaves me with no doubt that Humberson would be terrorizing new victims if he were released from prison.”

Humberson was sentenced to 25 years in prison with parole eligibility after 10 years. Humberson will again be considered for parole in March 2016. If all bids for parole are rejected, Humberson will be released from prison February 2021, when he will be 82 years old.