

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Man guilty of raping 15-year-old

(January 25, 2010 Akron) ... Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that James Brown, 41, of Kennedy Blvd. in Northfield, was found guilty in a bench trial before Judge Brenda Unruh of raping a 15-year-old girl.

Brown was found guilty of four counts of Rape, felonies of the first degree, three counts of Sexual Battery, felonies of the third degree, and four counts of Corrupting Another with Drugs, felonies of the fourth degree.

Brown was the boyfriend of the victim's mom. Victim disclosed to mom at age five that Brown had molested her. At that time, the family did not call police. From September 2008 until March 2009, Brown raped the 15-year-old girl on several occasions. The victim disclosed the rape to her mother who then called police.

Although the victim later recanted due to pressure from her family, enough evidence was presented to convict Brown. A major piece of evidence was Brown's semen found on the center console of a car driven by him based upon victim's statement of how one of the offenses occurred.

Additionally, Brown gave the victim and her friends marijuana on several occasions.

Brown will be sentenced on February 4, 2010. Brown could face a maximum sentence of 44 ½ years in prison.