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Akron Man Sentenced to LIFE IN PRISON for Rape

AKRON, Ohio (Tuesday, June 7, 2022) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Christine Croce sentenced Eddie Dukes, Jr., 63, of Akron, to LIFE IN PRISON for raping a young family member.

Dukes will first be eligible for parole after serving 25 years of his sentence.

Judge Croce also found Dukes guilty of the Repeat Violent Offender Specification for multiple prior felony convictions. Dukes was designated a Tier III sex offender. If Dukes is released from prison he would have to register with the local sheriff every 90 days for the rest of his life.

On June 3, 2022, a Summit County jury found Dukes guilty of the following charges:

- Two Counts of Rape (victim under 13) – Felonies of the 1st Degree
- Two Counts of Gross Sexual Imposition – Felonies of the 3rd Degree

In June of 2021 Dukes sexually assaulted the family member while the family member was staying at a relative's home.

Avery, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office facility dog, sat with the survivor as she testified at trial. Avery was also with the girl when she came to the Prosecutor's Office.

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The Summit County Prosecutor's Office received Avery in August of 2013 from Canine Companions for Independence. Avery is a highly trained ten-and-a-half-year-old Labrador/Retriever mix facility dog, whose primary job is to provide emotional support to adults with developmental disabilities and children who are victims of crime. Since 2013, Avery II has been involved in 210 cases in Summit County.