



ELLIOT KOLKOVICH

SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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PROSECUTOR KOLKOVICH ANNOUNCES LIFE SENTENCE FOR MAN WHO RAPED 11-YEAR-OLD

AKRON, OH – Today, Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich announced that Lowell Strickland, 57, of Portsmouth was sentenced to life in prison for the repeated rape of an 11-year-old child that he met online. Strickland pleaded guilty to 1st Degree Felony Rape. He will be eligible for parole consideration after 10 years.

Strickland has also been designated as a Tier III sex offender, which requires him to register every 90 days with the local sheriff for the rest of his life if he is ever released from prison.

“To seek out, manipulate, and rape a young child is abhorrent. I want to thank and commend the survivor for having the courage to speak out about what happened to her. I also want to thank the care providers at Akron Children’s Hospital and Akron Police detectives for their work to support and protect this child, and the Scioto County Sheriff’s Department for their assistance in this case,” said Prosecutor Kolkovich.

In March 2025, Akron Police Department officers responded to a missing person report filed by the child’s mother. The following morning, another relative reported seeing the child in the area. Police responded to the child’s home to confirm her recovery, then transported her to Akron Children’s Hospital for an examination. At the hospital, the child told a social worker and police that she had been sexually assaulted. A sexual assault kit was taken and submitted to the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI). When the child shared that she had met Strickland online in a chat room and gone to a hotel with him, police were able to secure the logs from the chat room as well as surveillance footage from the hotel showing Strickland entering and leaving the hotel with the child, which allowed them to identify him and his vehicle. In May, detectives used the child’s chat room account to have additional conversations with Strickland, during which Strickland made plans to meet the child again. A warrant was put out for Strickland’s arrest. When Strickland learned police were looking for him, he attempted to evade arrest. The Scioto County Sheriff’s Department located and arrested him at a hotel in Portsmouth. Once he was transported to Summit County Jail, DNA standards were taken from Strickland and sent to BCI. The report from BCI indicated that the DNA standards collected from Strickland were consistent with the DNA profile that was found in the sexual assault kit taken from the child.

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