



ELLIOT KOLKOVICH

SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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PROSECUTOR KOLKOVICH ANNOUNCES LIFE SENTENCE FOR RAPE OF CHILDREN

AKRON, OH – Today, Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich announced that Seth Chio, 38, of Youngstown, pleaded guilty to and was sentenced to life in prison for raping and sexually abusing two children under the ages of 13. Chio will be eligible to apply for parole after 25 years in prison. Chio's co-defendant Kirstie Kandel, 33, of Barberton, previously pleaded guilty to four counts of Endangering Children, all 3rd Degree Felonies, and was [sentenced to 12 years in prison](#).

Chio was already designated as a Tier III Sex Offender prior to this conviction, which requires him to register every 90 days with the local sheriff for the rest of his life if he is released from prison.

Chio pleaded guilty to the following charges:

- One count of Rape of a Child Under 13 Years of Age – a 1st Degree Felony; and
- Five counts of Gross Sexual Imposition of a Child Under 13 Years of Age – a 3rd Degree Felony.

“Seth Chio was given access to vulnerable children and abused that access in the most horrific way. Kirstie Kandel knew he was a convicted sex offender but made no effort to protect these children, instead working to shield Chio from the law. My office will always work to hold accountable those who endanger our children,” said Prosecutor Kolkovich.

From October 2024 to July 2025, Kandel knowingly allowed a convicted sex offender, Seth Chio, to enter and reside in a home with children present. Chio is a Tier III Sex Offender due to previous convictions for Rape, Sexual Battery, and Gross Sexual Imposition. On two occasions, when officers came to the home asking if Chio was there, Kandel lied and attempted to conceal him from law enforcement. When pressed further, Kandel admitted Chio was hiding in the basement. During the investigation, Chio admitted to raping and sexually abusing the children, and Kandel confessed she witnessed Chio sexually abusing the children.

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