



OFFICE OF THE
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COUNTY OF SHASTA

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Serial Child Molester Sentenced to 350 Years to Life

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Today, Shasta County Judge William Gallagher sentenced James Scott Rowton, Sr., 66 years old, to 350 years to life in state prison.

Rowton, Sr. was convicted in December of 2014 of two counts of forcible rape, in violation of Penal Code section 261(a)(2), two counts of forcible lewd act upon a child, in violation of Penal Code section 288(b), two counts of lewd act upon a child, in violation of Penal Code section 288(c)(1), and two counts of forcible oral copulation, in violation of Penal Code section 288a(c)(2).

Evidence presented at trial showed the defendant molested a relative beginning when the victim was approximately 10 years old until she was approximately 20 years old. When the victim was 10 years old the defendant raped the victim after convincing her to follow him to the basement of the home. The victim did not immediately report the molestation because the defendant told her this was their secret, she feared she would be removed from her family and that the defendant would harm her. The defendant threatened the victim that he would hurt her if she ever told anyone.

The defendant has five prior strike convictions from 1984 for three counts of lewd or lascivious acts upon a child under 14, in violation of Penal Code section 288(a) and two counts oral copulation ten year age difference and victim under 14, in violation of Penal Code section 288a(c) against two other female relatives.

Today's sentence ensures the safety of future victims and society by removing a serial sexual predator from our community.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Sarah Van Slyke, investigated by Detective Keith Sharp of the Shasta County Sheriff's Office and the victim was supported by Victim Advocate Deborah Heide.