



Office *of the* District Attorney General
Ninth Judicial District

Serving Loudon, Meigs, Morgan and Roane Counties
Russell Johnson, District Attorney General

Loudon County Sex Offender Gets Sentenced to 18 Years in Prison

(Loudon, Tennessee) - District Attorney General Russell Johnson announced that on Wednesday in Loudon County Criminal Court a defendant, Joseph Leslie Slusher (29 year old, W/M) formerly of Hotchkiss Valley Road in Loudon, pled guilty to two counts of aggravated sexual battery, Class B felonies. The case involved Slusher sexually molesting a young male child who was 8 years old at the time of the offenses. The young victim lived in the home of Slusher in Lenoir City during a time frame of October 2012 through October 2013. The abuse was later disclosed to authorities in Arkansas where the victim had moved with his mother.

Upon his plea Slusher was sentenced by Judge Jeff Wicks to serve eighteen years in the custody of the Tennessee Department of Corrections. Additionally, upon his release, he will be placed on the Sex Offender Registry and be subject to Community Supervision for Life, which is an enhanced form of probation for violent sex offenders. Though he will receive credit for the approximately two years that he has been in custody, because he was convicted of a violent sexual offense, he will be required to serve eighty-five percent of his prison sentence before becoming parole eligible.

Assistant District Attorney Alyson Kennedy of the 9th District Attorney General's Office Sex Crimes Unit prosecuted the case. Kennedy stated that "Justice has been served in this case," and noted that, by the young victim being willing and prepared to testify against the 'perpetrator of his abuse' this "went a long way towards bringing about successful result". She explained that the key to conviction in most child sex abuse cases is having a victim strong enough to face the person who committed the abuse in an open courtroom. She credited LCPD Captain Kevin Condee who investigated the case for his tremendous support and rapport with the victim in this regard.

Slusher was represented by Public Defender Kim Nelson's Office.

END OF RELEASE