

Press Release

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Hershberger Sentenced to 90 Years for Child Molesting

St. Joseph County –Jason Hershberger, 35, was sentenced today to 90 years in the Indiana Department of Correction for Child Molesting.

On December 16, 2016, Jason Hershberger was found guilty after a jury trial of 5 counts of Child Molesting, each a Level 1 felony, and 1 count of Child Molesting as a Class A Felony. Today he was sentenced to an aggregate sentence of 90 years for these six counts. The State, at the sentencing hearing, noted Mr. Hershberger's position of trust and the tender age of the victims who were 3 and 4 years old at the time the abuse started. The Court, in handing down its sentence, noted that Hershberger "exploited [the] love and trust" of his victims.

The Court made the determination that Mr. Hershberger is a Credit Restricted felon, meaning he will have to serve 85% of his sentence in the Indiana Department of Correction. He was determined to be a credit restricted felon due to the nature of the crime and the age of the child victims. He will also have to comply with lifetime sex offender registration.

In 2015, Hershberger was charged in a 10 count information with the molestation of 3 children under the age of twelve. The State dismissed four counts prior to trial, but received convictions at trial on the remaining six counts.

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Aimee Herring, Supervising Attorney at the Special Victims Unit, had this to say about the verdict: "I want to commend the good work done by the detectives and staff at the Special Victims Unit, who helped secure a satisfactory end to

this case. When they say it takes a village to do this work, this case is a perfect example of how strong our village is. This community is truly fortunate to have such passion and talent on this team, working for "our" kids. I also want to commend the bravery of these two child victims who testified. Mr. Hershberger will not be getting out of prison for a very long time."