

News Release

For Immediate Release

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MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE FOR RAPES OF TWO MINORS

Charleston, S.C.

Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that the Honorable Brooks Goldsmith, Circuit Court Judge, sentenced Gussie Hilton, Jr., of Ravenel, to life in prison for Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in the First Degree, a consecutive thirty years for Criminal Sexual Conduct in the First Degree, and thirty years each for three Kidnappings after Hilton pleaded guilty to the crimes on Thursday, May 18, 2017.

On August 30, 2015, Hilton sexually assaulted a six-year-old girl, after telling her he would make her a big girl that day. After the assault, he left her alone in his house. Hilton later that same day, agreed to drive a mother and daughter to North Charleston where the mother could visit her other young children. Her daughter was thirteen years old at the time. Hilton pulled over near a wooded area, brandished a knife, made the mother take off all of her clothes, bound the thirteen-year old's hands with tape, and made them walk into the woods. The mother fled to get help. While alone with the daughter in the woods, Hilton sexually assaulted the young girl indicating that he wanted her to have his baby. The mother was able to call 911, and Hilton and the thirteen-year-old were found in the woods. Hilton advised the authorities that he had done something bad and led them to the six-year-old who was found alone and bleeding in Hilton's home.

Hilton had been out of prison for ten months when these crimes occurred. His prior criminal history consists of shoplifting, possession of a stolen vehicle, petty larceny, financial transaction card thefts, breaking into a motor vehicle, and strong arm robbery.

Jennifer Kneece Shealy, who prosecuted the case stated that “The horrors that these young girls faced is unimaginable. We are grateful that they will never have to see him again. Criminal sexual conduct and Kidnapping are designated as “violent” crimes, and given the age of the children and the violent and perverse nature of these facts, a life sentence is appropriate.”