

# *News Release*

For Immediate Release  
May 23, 2016.

## **Charleston County Jury Convicts Stanley Miller of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree**

**Charleston, S.C.** – Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that on May 18, 2016, a Charleston County jury found Stanley Miller (2-17-78) guilty of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree as a result of a sexual assault that took place in the fall of 2013.

The victim, who was then 8 years old, was assaulted in her home by the defendant who was a friend of a family member. On several occasions, while the rest of her family slept, the defendant went into the victim's room and sexually assaulted her. The assault came to light after her mother questioned her about some inappropriate behavior.

The State pursued the initial charges of Criminal Sexual Conduct 1<sup>st</sup> degree as well as Criminal Sexual Conduct in the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree. The Judge, however, granted the defense's motion for a directed verdict, as to the count of Criminal Sexual Conduct in the 1<sup>st</sup> degree due to technical deficiencies in the child's testimony. The facts of this case highlight one of the greatest difficulties in prosecuting such cases, when the victim, due to her age, struggles to articulate what exactly happened to her. Solicitor Wilson stated, "While we believe the Criminal Sexual Conduct 1<sup>st</sup> degree was a proper charge, we understand the Judge's ruling and believe that the case has a much better chance to withstand the defendant's appeal. We are grateful that the Court gave the defendant the maximum 15 year sentence and believe the Court's rulings have put the case and the victim in the best position moving forward."

Assistant Solicitor, Shannon Elliott and Debbie Herring-Lash prosecuted the offender. "It is never easy for a child to face the person that assaulted them. This girl's bravery in the face of such adversity made the conviction possible," said Assistant Solicitor Elliott.

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