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Wednesday, October 26, 2016

Akron Man Sentenced to Life in Prison for Rape of 12-Year-Old

AKRON, Ohio (Wednesday, October 26, 2016) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Paul Gallagher sentenced James Lane, 19, of Triplett Boulevard in Akron, to life in prison. Lane will be eligible for parole after 10 years. Judge Gallagher also designated Lane a Tier III sex offender, meaning if Lane is ever released from prison he would have to register with the sheriff's department every 90 days for the rest of his life.

On September 26, 2016, a Summit County jury found Lane guilty of the following charge:

- One Count of Rape – a felony of the 1st degree

Lane met the victim in the summer of 2015 and had sex with the victim in November of 2015. Springfield Township police opened the investigation after the victim's mother discovered letters Lane wrote to the victim. During the trial, Avery II, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office facility dog, sat with the victim as she testified.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office received Avery II in August of 2013 from Canine Companions for Independence. Avery is a highly trained five-year-old Labrador/Retriever mix facility dog, whose primary job is providing emotional support to adults with developmental disabilities and children who are victims of crime. Since 2013, Avery II has been involved in over 100 cases in Summit County.