

## **MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**

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### **Man sentenced to 24 years for raping 15-year-old girl**

(February 11, 2010) ... Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that James Brown, 41, of Northfield, was sentenced today by Judge Brenda Unruh to 24 years in prison for raping and supplying a 15 year-old-girl with drugs.

Prosecutor Walsh said, "I want to recognize the hard work of Prosecutors Jon Baumoel and Jennie Shuki on this case. While we knew that based upon the evidence Brown was guilty, it was a difficult case because the victim recanted her statement. These are our toughest cases to prove, but we moved forward based upon the strong evidence and outrageous behavior of the family in pressuring the victim not to cooperate with prosecutors. It didn't work and Brown is exactly where he needs to be: prison for a very long time."

Brown was found guilty in a bench trial before Judge Unruh on January 25, 2010 of four counts of Rape, felonies of the first degree, three counts of Sexual Battery, felonies of the third degree, and four counts of Corrupting Another with Drugs, felonies of the fourth degree. Brown was sentenced to 20 years for the Rape and Sexual Battery counts and, and four years consecutive for the drug charges.

Walsh continued, "Brown was the boyfriend of the victim's mother. At trial, the victim's grandmother and aunt both testified that the girl was being pressured to recant and say nothing happened. It's tragic and sad that a mother could be so blind. A very important piece of evidence presented at trial was, in fact, provided by the victim. She directed police to Brown's car where police found DNA on the console to back up her statement about one of the sexual offenses that occurred."

The victim disclosed to her mother at age five that Brown molested her. At that time, the family did not call police. From September 2008 until March 2009, Brown raped the 15-year-old girl on several occasions. The victim disclosed the rape to her mother who then called police. Brown's computer was also found to contain teenage erotica websites.

Additionally, Brown gave the victim and her friends marijuana on several occasions.