

NEWS

# North Adams man jailed for CSC



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A North Adams man, who pleaded no contest to three separate charges of fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct on Sept. 3 in the 1st Judicial Circuit Court, was back before the judge Monday morning for sentencing.

Kristopher Walter Gale, 47, was originally charged with multiple counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct, fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct and accosting a child for immoral purposes.

A plea bargain arranged with the Hillsdale County Prosecutor's Office saw the more serious offenses dismissed and prosecutor's agreed to a 12-month maximum jail sentence pursuant to the bargain that was accepted on Sept. 3.

The victim's parents all spoke during Monday's sentencing hearing.

"We feel betrayed...we feel used," Erica Holton said. "He (Gale) used us to get to our children."

Holton added that because of what Gale did to her son, he had been suicidal at one point in time.

Randolph Barker, another parent, said Gale had been grooming their children to become victims for years and that 20-years ago, Gale had been arrested for similar offenses, but was "slapped on the hands." Court records show that offense was pleaded down to a misdemeanor assault charge.

"Now, there are three more victims," Barker said. "What message does this send to our children?"

Barker also took aim at the plea agreement in Gale's current case where it was agreed he would only serve 12-months maximum.

Judge Sara S. Lisznyai called upon Hillsdale County Prosecutor Neal Brady to answer to Barker's statements and Brady pointed to COVID-19 delaying potential jury trials indefinitely, which would have meant Gale's case would still have been pending and justice would not have been swift.

Lisznyai thanked the parent's of the victims for speaking.

"We don't know who all the victims are, but we know who some of the victims are," Lisznyai said.

Lisznyai also highlighted that Gale had committed to "long-term grooming over years" and called him dangerous.

Imposing sentencing, she ordered he serve 12-months jail with credit for 45 days served. Lisznyai also ordered that Gale be subjected to five years felony probation, the longest probation time she can impose, and ordered that he have no parenting time with his own children and that he have absolutely no contact with anyone under the age of 17.

Gale was returned to the Hillsdale County Jail following Monday's hearing to complete his sentence.