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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Man Sentenced in Murder for Hire and Child Rape Cases**

*State v. John Friend, III, 2014-CR-3505 and 2015-CR-343*

**DAYTON, OH (10/6/2015)** – Prosecutor Mat Heck, Jr. announced today that 41-year-old **John P. Friend, III**, of Dayton, was sentenced to a total of 31 years-to-life in prison for his convictions of conspiracy to commit murder and for raping a child under 10 years of age.

On October 21, 2014, the defendant was indicted in case 2014-CR-3505 on counts of Rape of a Child under 10 years of age and Gross Sexual Imposition of a child under 13.

While the defendant was in custody, awaiting trial, he contacted who he believed to be a hitman to have the child victim and the child's father killed. On March 11, 2015, the defendant was indicted on Conspiracy to Commit Murder counts.

On September 21, 2015, the defendant pled guilty, and was found guilty as charged, to two counts of conspiracy to commit murder, two counts of rape of a child under 10 and two counts of gross sexual imposition of a child under 13.

Today, the defendant was sentenced to 15 years-to-life on the rape counts, 11 years on the conspiracy to commit murder counts, and 5 years on the gross sexual imposition counts, all to be served consecutively, for a total of 31 years-to-life.

Prosecutor Heck added, "This defendant's actions are simply horrendous. The defendant planned to have the victim and the witness to his earlier crimes killed, hoping the charges would be dismissed. He will now spend at least the next 31 years in the penitentiary."

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