



MAT HECK, JR.
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Montgomery County, Ohio
(937) 225-5757
info@mcpo.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Man Receives Lengthy Prison Sentence for Child Rape Convictions

State v. Michael Luther, 2020-CR-865

DAYTON, OH (08/31/2020) – Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. announced today that **MICHAEL JAMES LUTHER**, 34, of Dayton, has been sentenced to 26 years-to-life in prison after being convicted of raping a 6-year-old special needs child and photographing the assaults.

On Saturday, February 15, 2020, a citizen found a memory card in the parking lot of Eastown Bingo on Falke Road, in Dayton. The citizen placed the memory card in a tablet and discovered that the card contained child pornography. He immediately notified the Kettering Police Department of his discovery. The Kettering officer investigated the images and was able to determine the photos were taken in the city of Dayton, so the evidence was turned over to the Dayton Police Department.

Further investigation identified the defendant and the victim, who is now 9 years old. The images on the memory card were taken by the defendant while he was sexually assaulting the victim, who has Cerebral Palsy, is non-verbal, and is confined to a wheelchair. The defendant had been entrusted to care for the child while the child's mother was at work.

On March 25, 2020, the Montgomery County Grand Jury indicted the defendant for:

- Four counts of Rape of a child under 10 years of age
- 18 counts of Pandering Obscenity Involving a Minor

On August 12, 2020, the defendant was found guilty as charged.

Today, the defendant was sentenced to 26 years to life in prison. Additionally, the defendant was designated a Tier III sex offender, which requires him to register his address, upon release from prison, with the Sheriff's Office, in person, every 90 days for the rest of his life.

Prosecutor Heck added, "Thanks to the efforts of the citizen who found and turned over the memory card to the police, this defendant has been held responsible for his heinous conduct. Anyone who would sexually assault a six-year old child with Cerebral Palsy certainly deserves a lengthy prison sentence."

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