



OFFICE OF
STATE ATTORNEY
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

December 3, 2013

PRESS RELEASE

William Eddins, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit, announced today that Mason Wesley Furniss, age 40, has been sentenced to 25 years state prison on the charges of Sexual Battery on a Minor, Lewd and Lascivious Molestation (victim 12-16 years of age), 3 counts of Child Neglect without Causing Great Bodily Harm and 6 counts of Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor.

Mason Furniss was arrested in December 2012 after an investigation involving allegations that the defendant had engaged in sexual acts with a then 14 year old child and provided alcohol, marijuana and tobacco products to this child and five other children ranging in age from 11 to 14 years of age. The defendant was charged with these offenses and with endangering several of these children by providing the controlled substances and then driving them around town in a pick-up truck with the children riding intoxicated in the bed of the truck and one falling out of the truck and on other occasions renting hotel rooms and allowing the intoxicated children in the pool when it was apparent they could not swim and as the only adult not coming to their assistance when they called out in distress. It was alleged that the defendant participated with the children in the consumption of the controlled substances.

Furniss pled guilty to the charges in September. He was also sentenced to 20 years of probation to follow the prison sentence and classified as a Sexual Offender.

The sentence was imposed by Circuit Judge Michael Flowers. The case was investigated by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Department. Assistant State Attorney Christine Bosau was responsible for the prosecution.

Any questions may be directed to Assistant State Attorney Christine Bosau at (850) 833-9237 ext. 2.