



COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY NEWS RELEASE

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Derrick Edward Laster, 32, was sentenced to serve 10 years in the state penitentiary this morning after he entered a no contest plea in Salem Circuit Court. Laster was charged with Animate Object Sexual Penetration of a 16-year-old girl, a felony that carries a prison term of five years to life.

Judge Charles N. Dorsey accepted the no contest plea and sentenced Laster to 30 years in prison with 20 years of the sentence suspended. Other conditions of the sentencing state that Laster must register as a sex offender and that he cannot have any contact with children under the age of 18 unless there is appropriate supervision.

In addition, Laster will be placed on probation for 15 years upon his release from prison and the 20-year suspended portion of the sentence is conditioned on good behavior for life.

“Society, the court system, and the City of Salem must take a tough stand against those who sexually harm and take advantage of our children, and I think this sentence clearly sends that message,” says Salem Commonwealth’s Attorney, Tom Bowers.

The offense occurred in Salem in June of 2009.

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