

State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

November 20, 2014

Pickens Man Convicted and Sentenced for Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that a Pickens County, SC jury convicted Justin Ryan Cone, age 29, of criminal sexual conduct with a minor in the first degree. The Honorable William P. Keesley sentenced Cone to thirty years of incarceration. Cone will have to serve at least eighty-five percent of his sentence before he is eligible for parole.

Evidence presented at trial by assistant solicitor Sam Tooker showed that over the course of several years, Cone sexually assaulted a minor child less than eleven years of age. Cone was friends with the child's father and mother and spent a great deal of time at the child's house. The abuse was revealed when the child's mother noticed the child behaving strangely. The mother contacted the Pickens County Sheriff's Office, and an investigation ensued.