

## **Cumberland County man gets prison in child molestation case**

by **MATT MILLER, Of The Patriot-News**

**Tuesday September 01, 2009, 11:56 AM**

A Cumberland County man was sentenced this morning to 9 to 23 months in county prison for molesting a girl for five years.

Even though he pleaded guilty to indecent assault on a child, Steven R. Waggoner, 57, of North Middleton Township, insists that he is innocent, defense attorney Patrick Lauer Jr. said.

The sentence imposed by county Judge J. Wesley Oler Jr. was part of a deal reached when Waggoner pleaded guilty. Senior Assistant District Attorney Christylee Peck said the plea deal was struck so the girl wouldn't have to endure the trauma of testifying at a trial.

Waggoner has also been deemed a violent sexual predator under Megan's Law and must register with police for life.

Township police said the girl came to them in August 2007 and accused Waggoner of molesting her starting at age 10, when he was baby-sitting her.

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# Prison ordered in North Middleton child molestation case

By Heather Stauffer, Sentinel Reporter, September 2, 2009

Last updated: Wednesday, September 2, 2009 8:59 AM EDT

**A** North Middleton Township man who pleaded guilty to indecent assault of a child was sentenced Tuesday to 9 to 23 months in Cumberland County Prison.

Steven Ray Waggoner, 57, of the 2200 block of Longs Gap Road, said nothing during his brief appearance before Cumberland County Judge J. Wesley Oler.

The standard-range sentence was agreed upon at the time of Waggoner's plea in February, when five other charges including aggravated indecent assault and unlawful contact with a minor were dismissed.

Waggoner's attorney, Patrick Lauer, said afterward that Waggoner still maintains his innocence but accepted the deal because it meant a reduction in the jail time he would have faced if convicted.

"It spared the victim from having to testify," said prosecutor Christylee Peck, Cumberland County senior assistant district attorney.

The girl was present for sentencing Tuesday but did not speak. According to police reports, she was 15 in August 2007 when she told police that Waggoner, who at one time had been her babysitter, had molested her since she was 10.

Waggoner was free on \$10,000 bail until Aug. 5 of this year, when bail was increased to \$20,000 and he failed to post it, according to court records.

Waggoner, who was found to be a sexually violent predator in separate proceedings earlier this year, is also required to maintain lifetime registration with Pennsylvania's Megan's Law program for sex offenders. Sexually violent predators are required to check in with state police quarterly or whenever any of their registration information changes.

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