

News Release



July 25, 2012

Sex Offender Sentenced to Serve 18 Years Donald Hackler Plead Guilty to 3 Counts of Rape



SPRINGFIELD, Ohio – (July 25, 2012) – Donald Hackler Jr. was sentenced Friday, July 20, to serve 18 years in prison for three counts of rape against two women.

Hackler, 23, of 510 N. Saint Clair St., Girard, Ohio, pleaded guilty to three first degree felony charges of rape for his unthinkable acts against two women.

Clark County Common Pleas Court Judge Douglas M. Rastatter sentenced Hackler to serve 9 year in prison on each of two counts of rape in one case to be served concurrently with each other for a total of 9 years. Judge Rastatter also sentenced Hackler to an additional 9 years in prison on the third count of rape arising from a second case. This sentenced was ordered to be served consecutive to the time imposed in the first case for a total prison sentence of 18 years. The sentencing also requires Hackler to register as a Tier 3 sex offender, which mandates that he will have to check in with law enforcement every 90 days for the rest of his life. This 18-year sentence has been ordered to be served concurrently with a sentence he is currently serving for failing to register as a sex offender in Trumbull County.

Before noon on March 27, 2011 Hackler approached a young college student in Veteran's Park, brandished a knife, and then forced her into the woods where he raped her and threatened her not to notify the authorities before he fled the scene. The victim was taken to Springfield Regional Medical Center for treatment and released into the care of her family. On June 23, 2011 a patient of Springfield Regional Medical Center reported that she had been sexually assaulted by a man with a knife. The victim also had a shallow laceration on her neck. She was treated and released.

These cases went unresolved until DNA tests identified Hackler as the perpetrator in both cases. At the time of the identification, Hackler was serving time in prison for failing to register as a sex offender.

Clark County Assistant Prosecutor Amy Smith, who handled the case, remarked, "The sentence for a sexual predator with violent tendencies who has repeatedly preyed on women in the community could have been much harsher."
