

## Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



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### **ROCKFORD MAN FACES LIFE IN PRISON FOR SEX ASSAULT OF CHILD**

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A Rockford man formerly of Carpentersville faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison for sexually assaulting a child he knew.

Circuit Judge James C. Hallock today convicted 40-year-old **James E. Melvin** of predatory criminal sexual assault, Class X felony, and six counts of aggravated predatory criminal sexual abuse, Class 2 felony. Melvin waived his right to a jury trial.

Kane County Assistant State's Attorneys Megan Baxter and Reagan Pittman presented evidence that on Feb. 27, 2009, Melvin sexually assaulted the victim, whom he knew.

The child, who was younger than 12 years old, immediately told her mother, who promptly contacted the authorities.

Melvin pleaded guilty in the case in 2009, but in 2015 the Illinois Appellate Court Second District ruled that the plea was improper, and returned the case to the trial court.

Judge Hallock set Melvin's next court appearance for 1:30 p.m. Feb. 23, 2018, for motions and sentencing. Melvin faces a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment because he now has multiple convictions for predatory criminal sexual assault. Melvin was convicted of the offense in 1998 in Cook County.

Melvin remains in custody at the Kane County jail, where he has been held since his arrest in lieu of \$1 million bail. Bond was revoked upon conviction.

"The law that requires life in prison for child sex offenses was created because of dangerous predators like Mr. Melvin. He belongs in prison where he no longer poses a threat to vulnerable children. My thanks to our staff at the Child Advocacy Center, and to the Carpentersville Police Department for its assistance," Kane County State's Attorney Joe McMahon said.

**James E. Melvin:** Age 40 (d.o.b. 5-7-1977), most recently of the 1200 block of South Court Street, Rockford