

Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



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ROCKFORD MAN GETS LIFE IN PRISON FOR SEX ASSAULT OF 2ND CHILD

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A Rockford man formerly of Carpentersville will spend the rest of his life in prison for sexually assaulting a child he knew.

Kane County Circuit Judge James C. Hallock today sentenced 40-year-old **James E. Melvin** to spend the rest of his natural life in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Judge Hallock on Dec. 8, 2018, convicted 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 13 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.

Melvin's life sentence is mandatory because he has multiple convictions for predatory criminal sexual assault. Melvin was convicted of the offense in 1998 in Cook County.

In addition to the prison term, Melvin must register for life as a sexual offender in accordance with the Illinois Sexual Offender Registration Act.

"The quick actions of this victim and her mother prevented Mr. Melvin from further preying on vulnerable children. Mr. Melvin is a dangerous predator who belongs in prison where he no longer can harm the community. My thanks to our staff at the Child Advocacy Center, and to the Carpentersville police and fire departments for their 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