

Bristol County District Attorney's Office
C. Samuel Sutter
District Attorney

Press Release
September 2, 2010

District Attorney Sam Sutter today announced that Jonathan Santos, 38, of Fall River was sentenced to serve 10-15 years in state prison today after a Fall River Superior Court Jury convicted him of child rape after trial.

At the time of the rapes, Mr. Santos was the seven year old child's stepfather. The abuse took place from 1998- 2002 while the child was living with Santos and her mother in Fall River. The abuse went undisclosed until 2003, when the child confided in her best friend while on a Maine camping trip. The friends agreed it was "their secret" and did not report the abuse. It was not until 2008, when the now 17 year old victim was in counseling that the rape allegations were reported to law enforcement officials.

The victim testified emotionally in court on Tuesday about at least two incidents of rape. When asked why she did not come forward immediately to report the crimes, the victim said she lived in constant fear of Santos promised to beat her in the future if she told of the abuse.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Maryclare Flynn, and the prison sentence was doled out by Judge E. Susan Garsh.

"Let me begin by thanking the victim, who years after she was subjected to these horrific acts, had the courage to come forward, speak to the police and see this matter through every step of the criminal justice process, including the trial," District Attorney Sutter said. "No human being should ever have to experience what she was subjected to by this defendant, and thankfully she received at least some justice for what she had to go through.

"This guilty verdict and this severe prison sentence would not have been achieved without her courage, and the skill and determination displayed by Assistant District Attorney Maryclare Flynn, who once again demonstrated that she is one of the best trial lawyers in this region."