

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

**Press Release
February 2, 2009**

Bristol County District Attorney Sam Sutter announced that Corey Deen Saunders pleaded guilty today in New Bedford Superior Court to charges of rape of a child, indecent assault and battery-subsequent offense, indecent assault and battery, enticing a child and threats to commit a crime.

Mr. Saunders, 27, of New Bedford, chose to plead guilty to the charges today rather than go forward with a trial.

Assistant District Attorney MaryClare Flynn and District Attorney Sutter handled the case for the Commonwealth. During today's plea hearing, District Attorney Sutter and Assistant District Attorney Flynn argued that Saunders should be sentenced to life in prison because of the age of the victim in this case, the circumstances of the case and the age of the previous victim from the 2000 case. Mr. Saunders' defense counsel, however, recommended that his client receive a sentence short of life in prison, including a sentence of probation.

Superior Court Judge Robert T. Kane took the matter under advisement, and requested that both sides submit more documents to the court to support their respective positions. Judge Kane set a February 17th deadline for the documents to be filed, and will then set a date for sentencing.

Mr. Saunders was arrested on January 30, 2008 after being accused of raping a 6-year-old boy in a room at the New Bedford Public Library.

After first having Saunders held without bail through the use of a dangerousness hearing, District Attorney Sutter immediately moved for a probation violation hearing to prove that Mr. Saunders' actions in the library violated the terms of his probation from a 2000 conviction for attempted rape of a child. The terms of his probation from the 2000 case prohibited Mr. Saunders from having unsupervised contact with minors.

After a hearing on the matter in April of 2008, Judge Kane ruled that Mr. Saunders had violated the terms of his probation and agreed with Assistant District Attorney Flynn's request that Mr. Saunders be sentenced to the maximum five year prison term for his probation violation.

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