

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

Press Release
April 2, 2009

District Attorney Sam Sutter announced that Corey Deen Saunders was sentenced today to a term of life in prison, after being convicted two months ago on 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, will not be eligible for parole for another 15 years. If he is ever released from prison, he will be placed on probation for the rest of his life. The terms of that probation include sex offender treatment and counseling, no contact with children, stay away from the victim and his family and submit his DNA to the state's database.

Assistant District Attorney MaryClare Flynn and District Attorney Sutter handled the case for the Commonwealth. During a plea hearing in early February, 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 agreed with the district attorney's recommendation today in his sentencing decision. (A copy of Judge Kane's sentencing memorandum and a copy of the victim's mother's victim impact statement is attached to this e-mailed press release)

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.