

Carol O'Brien
DELAWARE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JAN. 3, 2014

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
JULIE DATKO (740) 833-2755

**SUNBURY MOTHER SENTENCED FOR
ATTEMPTED UNLAWFUL SEXUAL CONDUCT WITH A MINOR**



Pam Fisher

Pam Fisher received 57 consecutive months in prison for acting out sexually with a juvenile victim in her care. In addition to prison time, she will be labeled a Tier III sex offender for life.

"There were multiple occasions where Mrs. Fisher preyed on this juvenile victim and abused her position of authority and trust," said Delaware County Prosecuting Attorney Carol O'Brien. "Young men can be victims, just as young girls, and women can be predators, just as men. Prison time is warranted."

The instances of abuse took place from August 1, 2012 through September 22, 2012 while the victim was staying in Fisher's home.

Fisher, now 38, pleaded guilty on Nov. 12, 2013 to two counts of sexual battery – both third-degree felonies, and three counts of attempted unlawful sexual conduct with a minor – all fourth-degree felonies.

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From the Office of
Kenneth W. Oswalt
Special Prosecuting Attorney for Delaware County, Ohio
c/o Licking County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
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January 17, 2014

For Immediate Release
Re: Indictment of Patrick H. Gerke,

As Special Delaware County Prosecuting Attorney, I am hereby announcing the filing of an indictment by the Delaware County Grand Jury of charges against Patrick H. Gerke (31) of Powell, Ohio in connection to allegations that he created various documents that served to assume the identity of one or more others. Mr. Gerke is a detective with the Delaware City Police Department.

It should be kept in mind that the indictment is a set of allegations that have yet to be proven in a court of law. However, the formal charges against Mr. Gerke are:

- Identify Fraud, a felony of the fifth degree; and,
- Unauthorized Use of Property, a misdemeanor of the first degree.

These charges carry the possibility of up to one (1) year and six (6) months incarceration, although under Ohio law there is a presumption against prison time. Copies of the charging documents can be obtained by contacting the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas, Clerk of Courts.

The charges included in the indictment involve allegations that the defendant assumed the identity of a Franklin County attorney (who I will not name), and then signed documents with signatures of two of his supervisors (again who I will not name), all being done on Delaware City Police Department computers and/or computer network. I will not at this time comment on the motives that authorities currently believe prompted Mr. Gerke to undertake this conduct. In addition, I will leave for the Chief of the Delaware City Police Department to explain what Mr. Gerke's employment status is.

Mr. Gerke is represented by David Thomas of Meek's and Thomas law firm located in Columbus.

Because this case warrants review by a jury uninfluenced by pretrial media coverage, I will be making no more comments about this matter at this time. Even if that were not the case, I expect to be out of the Office on personal business on much of Friday January 17th and all of the following week, I will not be available for any additional comment. Mr. Gerke's initial appearance on this indictment will be set by the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas in the customary manner for such offenses. Accordingly, I do not currently have any date for Mr. Gerke's appearance.

Kenneth W. Oswalt
Licking County Prosecutor

Carol O'Brien
DELAWARE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

N E W S

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JAN. 17, 2014

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
JULIE DATKO (740) 833-2755

FRANK HERTEL SR. REINDICTED FOR RAPE CRIMES



Frank Hertel Sr.

A Delaware County Grand jury reindicted Frank Hertel Sr. this week for crimes he committed two decades ago.

Hertel, 51, first pleaded guilty to rape and gross sexual imposition on Nov. 5, 2013. The allegations were that he raped a child under the age of 13.

At what was supposed to be Hertel's sentencing hearing in December, he withdrew his guilty plea when it was discovered that, at the time of his plea agreement, it was not made clear that the rape sentence includes mandatory prison time.

Hertel was reindicted this week on five felony charges including 3 counts of rape – all first-degree felonies, and 2 counts of gross sexual imposition – both third-degree felonies.

"The indictment against Mr. Hertel now includes a force specification on each of the rape counts," said Delaware County Prosecutor Carol O'Brien. "A 'force specification' means each count (if he's found guilty) would carry a mandatory life sentence."

Hertel's crimes in Delaware County span a time period from June 12, 1993 to June 11, 1995.

After the initial abuse in Ohio, Hertel moved to Arizona and continued to abuse the victim. He was on trial there in 2001 and sentenced to 20 years in prison. At that time, he fled with his wife and son to Germany, and was on the run for 12 years before being extradited to Arizona.

Hertel is in the Delaware County Jail, where he will remain until his trial, which is scheduled for March 4, 2014.

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Carol O'Brien
DELAWARE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JAN. 23, 2014

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
JULIE DATKO (740) 833-2755

DELAWARE MAN INDICTED FOR STEALING/BURNING CARS



A Delaware County Grand Jury returned a 13-count indictment against 18-year-old Blake D. New. The indictment includes multiple incidences from October to December 2013.

"The defendant stole several vehicles from multiple victims," said Delaware County Prosecutor Carol O'Brien. "In some cases, property and money were missing. In other cases, the vehicles were discovered by authorities after they had been set on fire and abandoned."

Blake D. New New is charged with 6 counts of theft – fourth-degree felonies, 3 counts of arson – fourth-degree felonies, receiving stolen property – a fourth-degree felony, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle – a first-degree misdemeanor, breaking and entering – a fifth-degree felony, and tampering with evidence – a third-degree felony.

New is in jail awaiting arraignment. A date has not yet been set.

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Carol O'Brien
DELAWARE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 28, 2014

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
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PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE DONATES TO STAND UP LEADERSHIP

Delaware County Prosecutor Carol O'Brien donated \$4,750 to the STAND UP Leadership Team of Delaware County.

"It is my honor to support such an exceptional group of young adults who work hard to make a difference," O'Brien said. "I have great respect for these teens who do so much to make their school and community a better place by striving for a healthy, drug-free environment."

The STAND UP Leadership Team is a structured group of high school teens who focus on a variety of teen issues, and are resources for their peers by being mentors and positive role models. They also aid area agencies and boards by indentifying community needs and driving youth programming in the county.

"I am so grateful for the support we have received here today," said STAND Facilitator Amy Hawthorne. "This funding helps to ensure that drug-free education programs continue to teach successful decision-making skills to Delaware County teens."

"Working with these amazing teens is an awesome opportunity, but to also have the support and backing from community partners such as the Prosecutor's office just adds to the success of STAND UP Leadership," said STAND Coordinator Matthew Brooker. "We are so thrilled and look forward to another impactful year."

Originating in 2007, the STAND UP group is coordinated by the Delaware General Health District and HelpLine of Delaware and Morrow Counties. STAND UP partners with all the Delaware County high schools and coordinators work with school staff and administration to invite teens to participate in a dynamic group advocating alcohol-free, tobacco-free and drug-free lifestyles.

Today's donation was made in accordance with Ohio Revised Code §2981.13(D), which states a portion of the office's law enforcement trust fund shall be used in connection with community preventive education programs.

(Photo attached)

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From Left to Right: STAND Facilitator Amy Hawthorne, Olentangy student Katarina Ruvoldt, STAND Coordinator Matt Brooker, and Delaware Hayes student Olivia Johnson