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Akron Man Pleads Guilty to Rape, Sentenced to Life in Prison

AKRON, Ohio (Wednesday, September 09, 2015) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that James Fudge, 21, of East Crosier Street in Akron, pled guilty in connection with the rape of a young girl. Fudge also admitted to assaulting Summit County Sheriff's Deputies while in the Summit County jail, awaiting trial on the rape charge.

Fudge pled guilty to the following charges:

- Rape of a victim less than 13 years of age – a felony of the first degree
- Two counts of Assault on a Police Officer – felonies of the fourth degree

On May 30, 2014, Fudge was left to watch three young children for about 15 to 20 minutes. When the victim's mother returned, the child pleaded with her not to leave again. It was later determined Fudge raped the young girl.

Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Christine Croce immediately sentenced Fudge to Life in Prison. Fudge is eligible for parole after serving ten years of his sentence. Fudge was also sentenced to 18 months in prison for each of the assault charges. That sentence will run concurrent with the life sentence.