

## Trooper Pleads Guilty Michael Evans Gets 5-10 Years For Sexually Abusing 3 Girls, 3 Women.

October 04, 2000 | By JOSEPH P. FERRY, The Morning Call  
October 04, 2000

mcall.com

### [2000 Cop rape \(3 minors and one adult\)](#) Michael K. Evans

Former Pennsylvania State Trooper Michael K. Evans, branded by prosecutors as a predator who hid behind a badge, pleaded guilty Tuesday to 11 counts of sexually abusing three teenagers and three women while on duty.

Montgomery County Judge William Carpenter immediately sentenced Evans to 5 to 10 years in state prison, followed by 10 years of probation, a punishment that prosecutors and the defense negotiated.

Evans also was ordered to resign from the state police, from which he had been suspended without pay since his arrest eight months ago.

Evans, who walked into the courtroom holding a book on spirituality, has been held in Montgomery County Prison under \$1 million bail. He had been slated to be moved to Luzerne County on Thursday to begin jury selection.

‘It is safe to say he used his uniform as a disguise,’ said prosecutor Risa Ferman at a news conference following the hearing in Norristown. ‘He was not a state trooper, he was a predator. He used his badge to find

 people to victimize.’

While the guilty plea closes the book on Evans, it might not be the end of the case. Montgomery County District Attorney Bruce Castor suggested the state police are continuing their investigation amid allegations that other troopers participated in the assaults with Evans or at least knew what was happening but did not report the abuse.

State police press secretary Jack Lewis issued a statement saying the department was satisfied with the result of the Evans investigation and would have no further comment about Evans.

‘It’s important to remember the case came to us after an internal investigation by the state police,’ said Castor. ‘I have no reason to doubt the effectiveness of their investigative abilities. If they come up with more evidence, we’ll look at it and proceed from there.’

In a courtroom packed with victims, their families and members of the media, Evans, 33, admitted to three counts each of indecent assault, official oppression and corruption of minors, and one count each of indecent exposure and criminal solicitation to promote prostitution. He could have faced up to 30 years in prison if convicted on all 19 original counts.

Defense attorney Marc Steinberg said Evans did not want to risk the chance of a harsher sentence. He said Evans, a former Lehigh County deputy sheriff and a former part-time police officer in Hellertown, was emotional when the two sides hammered out the final details of the plea agreement.

‘I believe he has a lot of remorse,’ Steinberg said while surrounded by television cameras outside the courtroom.

Given a chance to address the court, Evans, dressed in a dark sport coat and white shirt, said his actions should not reflect on the state police.

‘I apologize for what I put every person through, as well as the court and the taxpayers

of Montgomery County,’ he said without emotion.

Evans, a state trooper since 1996, was working out

of the Skippack barracks on Feb. 15 when he was arrested and charged with three instances of sexual misconduct involving juveniles. In the days following his arrest, more victims came forward to say they also had been abused. The incidents took place between July 1997 and September 1999.

In one case, Evans admitted sexual contact with a 15-year-old runaway while transporting her to the Skippack barracks. He also offered to pay her for sex in the future.

In another case involving a juvenile, Evans admitted asking a 16-year old Lower Frederick Township girl if she would pose for pictures in her underwear so she could be his ‘locker girl.’ Evans had been called to the girl's house to investigate a burglary.

In a third case involving a juvenile, Evans admitted rubbing his genitals and grabbing the breast of a 14-year-old girl he was transporting from Pennsburg to a shelter in Montgomery County.

Evans also admitted soliciting sex from a Lower Salford woman in exchange for leniency in connection with a high-speed chase; offering to protect a woman from physical abuse in a domestic case in exchange for sex; and touching himself in front of a woman hospitalized after a drug overdose and failed suicide attempt.

Ferman said it was obvious Evans targeted women in vulnerable positions. She said all the victims agreed with the terms of the plea agreement.

‘It would have been a difficult trial,’ Ferman admitted. ‘They would have been subject to personal attacks. But if it had gone to trial they would have testified and they would have done fine.’

All but two of the victims were in the courtroom for Evans' plea. Several attended the news conference but declined to comment.

Castor, who approved the plea bargain, praised Ferman for her handling of the case.

`This is a very severe sentence,` said Castor. `It was a difficult investigation and was going to be a difficult trial. It was the right resolution of the case.`

In addition to prison, Evans was ordered to undergo sex offenders evaluation and treatment

 while in prison and to submit to a DNA registry.

Contact Joseph P. Ferry