

## Kevin Sledge sentenced to 10 to 12 years on rape conviction



Lawrence police officer Kevin Sledge stands in Newburyport Superior Court yesterday as he is sentenced to 10 to 12 years in prison for rape and indecent assault. Angie Beaulieu

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 **Leroy Jethro Gibbs** 6 months ago


He once was my neighbor and I knew he was not a good person then..feel sorry for his child.

Like

 **moisesfernandez** 6 months ago


That place is full criminals,that's why is under Federal investigation.

Like

 **Leroy Jethro Gibbs** 6 months ago [in reply to moisesfernandez](#)


The place or the town?

Like

 **Wisdom1st** 6 months ago

Bye, bye! Sad thing is.. they will not release him into general population. He will most likely do his time in P.C with the rest of the pedophiles, rapists, rats, and so on. Please do us a favor and let him 'enjoy his time' with the general population! Make sure he doesn't wear an orange jumpsuit but a police officer's uniform. LMAO!

Like

 **kyano** 6 months ago

Unfortunately this is not his first accusation of assault on a women this has gone on for many years from many different women including his own wife. I

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## <http://www.eagletribune.com/latestnews/x150252003/Kevin-Sledge-sentenced-to-10-to-12-years-on-rape-conviction>

By Jill Harmacinski

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LAWRENCE — Suspended city police officer Kevin Sledge will serve a minimum of 10 years in state prison for raping an intoxicated 23-year-old mother while he was on duty and in uniform in 2008.

Sledge, 48, of Salem, N.H., was sentenced yesterday in Newburyport District Court by Judge Richard Welch, who said the victim "was drunk as can be" and that Sledge "took advantage of that."

A 12-person jury found Sledge guilty of rape and three counts of indecent assault and battery a week ago.

"The sentence is a harsh sentence. The defendant did indeed violate a position of trust," Welch said

as he sentenced Sledge to 10 to 12 years in state prison. Welch also sentenced Sledge to five years of probation concurrently on each indecent assault and battery charge after his release from state prison.

Under the state's Truth in Sentencing Law, Sledge will serve a minimum of 10 years without chance of parole.

Sledge, a police officer for 17 years, raped and repeatedly assaulted the woman in his personal car, a silver Jaguar he parked behind the police station on Sept. 26, 2008. Sledge was assigned to the booking room and repeatedly left his post to go to his car to rape and fondle the woman.

When arrested, he was immediately suspended from the department and stripped of his paycheck once indicted.

He will be required to register as a sex offender, undergo sex offender counseling, pay various fines, and have no contact with the victim, her family or the victim's best friend, Regina Perry, who testified against Sledge during both rape trials. A jury deadlocked in his first trial in September 2010.

"I made the wrong decisions and I apologize to the court," said Sledge, who appeared in court handcuffed and wearing suit pants, a dress shirt and a green tie.

He arrived just minutes before the sentencing hearing in a transport van from the Middleton jail, where he's been held since the guilty verdicts were handed down last Friday.

Prosecutor Kate MacDougall asked Welch to impose a 12- to 15-year sentence saying Sledge "violated a sacred trust" as a police officer and "used his position" to facilitate his "disgraceful and shameful behavior."

Victim's statement read

The victim sat in court yesterday with her mother as MacDougall read a three-page impact statement she'd written. The woman, who'd gone out that night to celebrate her 24th birthday, said she and her two children suffered after she was raped and assaulted. She said she wasn't "much of a mother" and her son missed a lot of school because she was too "paranoid" to walk him there.

"Every time, I (saw) a silver car, I put my head down and my heart would pound hoping it wasn't him," she said.

She said she was deeply depressed, eventually evicted from her apartment and went to live with her kids in homeless shelters in Lowell and later Waltham.

"Never would I have thought trusting a police officer was gonna end in a disaster," she said. "I thought I had no chance going up against a cop, but I did it anyways."

Defense attorney John Morris asked Welch to impose a 3- to 5-year prison sentence, pointing to the many letters of support Sledge's extended family had written on his behalf to Welch.

Morris read a letter in court from Kevin Sledge Jr., Sledge's 21-year-old son, who is a sophomore in college. Sledge Jr. described his father as his best friend and a person who loves him unconditionally.

He also said he was disappointed by his dad's choices.

"I cannot imagine what my life would be like without him. He taught me to be a hard worker ... to

never quit," Sledge Jr. wrote. "I am proud to call him my dad."

Morris also said Sledge suffers from congestive heart failure, a condition he was diagnosed with in August. In addition to heart valve and blood flow problems, Sledge also has a herniated disk in his back and nerve damage that resulted from a cruiser accident he was involved in as a police officer, Morris said.

Judge acknowledges support

Welch acknowledged reading the letters from Sledge's family and noted "there are two sides of a person."

While his family considers him a loving and supportive person "and they can't imagine him going to jail," the other side of Sledge is "a man who committed rape and indecent assault and battery," the judge said.

Before sentencing Sledge, Welch commended the victim.

"You displayed remarkable courage when you testified," he said. He acknowledged the "huge hole in her life" caused by the crimes, but urged the woman to draw on the courage she displayed reporting the rape and testifying.

"Hopefully you can build on that," Welch said.

Shawn Sledge, 40, Sledge's nephew, said he also hoped the victim "can move on with her life and be happy. ... Our hearts go out to her."

Shawn Sledge said he flew in from Atlanta for yesterday's sentencing. He had hoped Welch sentenced his uncle to a shorter prison sentence.

"It's somewhat harsh ... I do understand the judge's comments that he was a police officer and a protector of the law. I understand the decision he made, even though I don't think it's the right one," he said.

Last week, when the guilty verdicts were handed down, Sledge's wife, Bernice Aguirre, burst into an emotional tirade in the courtroom.

At the start of yesterday's hearing, Welch warned that such outbursts would not be tolerated and "any sort of display of emotion" would result in a contempt of court arrest.

With the exception of Welch's voice, there was silence in the courtroom as Sledge's sentence was announced.

An older, gray-haired woman sat alone in the back of the courtroom yesterday. After the sentence was announced, she immediately got up and left the courthouse. She was one of 12 jurors from Sledge's first trial last September.

Sledge was previously acquitted of a separate rape charge in 1999.



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