



## Former clown, policeman sentenced for molesting girls

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**pn** By **The Patriot-News**

Michael Fernsler, 34, of Franklin County, was sentenced today to 26 to 52 years in prison for sexually molesting two 4-year-old girls in 2006.

Fernsler is a former police officer and children's clown.

He also has been accused of sexually molesting a girl in North Londonderry Twp., Lebanon County, in November while free on bail after pleading guilty in August to sexually assaulting two girls.

A Swatara Twp., Dauphin County, woman told police in March 2006 that her two foster children had been molested by a friend of the family. Fernsler admitted molesting the 4-year-old girls and said he was seeking counseling because he was addicted to pornography.

He was a police officer for Shippensburg University when he was arrested in 2006. He worked as a North Londonderry Twp., Lebanon County, police officer for two years and before that as an officer in Baltimore.

Fernsler also performed as Chuckles the Clown for groups of children, juggling and creating balloon animals. He performed twice on behalf of the North Londonderry Twp. police force in 2004, but other police officers and adults were present both times and there were no reports of inappropriate behavior.

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