



## The Grand Life Package

\$100 Resort Credit For Spa, Golf & Dining

RESERVE NOW ▶



Sign in | Register for free

Site Search Search Local Business Listings

Brought to you by:

Sign in with Facebook

Search for keywords, people, locations, obituaries, Web ID and more..



- Home
  - News
  - Weather
  - Sports
  - Entertainment
  - Living
  - Interact
  - Jobs
  - Autos
  - Real Estate
  - Rentals
  - Classified Ads
- News
  - Top Photos
  - Top Videos
  - Crime
  - Politics
  - Business
  - Education
  - Environment
  - Opinions
  - Obits
  - Traffic/Fires
  - Katrina

### Top Stories



'Scarface' cast celebrate film's legacy



LSU players suspended indefinitely



### Today's Events

Home > New Orleans Metro Crime and Courts News > Breaking News

# Former NOPD officer changes rape plea to guilty just as 15-year-old victim takes witness stand

Published: Wednesday, May 11, 2011, 8:31 PM Updated: Wednesday, May 11, 2011, 8:32 PM

By **John Simerman, The Times-Picayune**  
Follow

Recommend 64 people recommend this. Be the first of your friends.

11 Share  
15 Email  
Print

submit

The girl wore a pink ribbon in her hair, faux pearl earrings and a grim expression as she reached the witness stand Wednesday, ready to describe how former New Orleans police officer **Christopher Buckley** raped her multiple times in 2008, when she was 13.



Christopher Buckley

But she never got past her name.

Buckley's defense attorney, Robert Jenkins, called a sudden halt to the trial on its second day just as the teen prepared to testify. Buckley, who served on the force for 10 years, changed his plea to guilty as charged, copping to seven counts of forcible rape. Six of them relate to the sexual assault of the girl, now 15, and the seventh to an alleged attack against a woman in 2003, for which Buckley awaited a separate trial.

Afterward, in a narrow hallway at Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, one of Buckley's relatives allegedly accosted the girl. Police arrested Jasmine Buckley, 20, and charged her with obstruction of justice and intimidating, impeding or injuring a witness, online jail records show. It's

not clear whether anyone was injured in the fracas. She was still being booked late Wednesday.

Christopher Buckley, 39, was the boyfriend of the teen's mother, also an officer with the NOPD. He resigned shortly after his arrest on Oct. 21, 2008, after the girl told her mother that Buckley raped her three times that month. The Times-Picayune is not naming the girl or her relatives.

Only after **his arrest** did police reveal that Buckley had been the subject of two internal probes stemming from **complaints of inappropriate behavior** with girls. Neither led to charges.

Each of the seven counts carries a prison sentence of five to 40 years. Judge Karen Herman scheduled sentencing for July 15.

The girl appeared composed, but then wept from the gallery as her father chastised Buckley at the start of victim impact statements, the formal venting hearing before sentencing. He noted that the girl once considered Buckley a father figure.

Sponsored By:



## More New Orleans Metro Crime and Courts News

Most Comments Most Recent

**New Orleans Metro Crime and Courts News** stories with the most comments in the last 7 days.

- 75** [Lawsuit accuses Gretna cop of Taser-ing 7-year-old boy during traffic stop](#)
- 31** [Armstrong Park slaying investigation leads to arrest](#)
- 30** [Body recovered from Mississippi River along French Quarter waterfront](#)
- 30** [Bridge jumper tied to Kenner motel killing by phone, license, debit card](#)
- 28** [Marlon Defillo's handling of Henry Glover case slammed in Louisiana State Police report](#)

"In my absence, that was your job, something you should have done. You failed us all," he said. "I hope you realize you've affected not just my family, but your family. Thank you for pleading guilty for what you've done."

Buckley sat listening in a dark suit. He acknowledged that his guilty plea came with no set deal or assurance of leniency. Herman ordered a probation report to help determine a sentence for Buckley.

Earlier, Jenkins had suggested that the girl, who was sexually active, conjured a rape story to save face with her mother after Buckley found her hiding three boys in a closet.

A grand jury indicted Buckley in December 2008 for the alleged rapes of the girl and that of a woman in 2003.

The girl said Buckley insisted she take "a test" to show whether she was sexually active. That test turned out to be rape, said prosecutor Payal Patel.

On Tuesday, a hospital nurse who conducted a rape exam at Children's Hospital testified that the girl suffered "acute" tearing that suggested sexual assault, as well as scratches to her right hip.

After Buckley's guilty plea, a cousin got on the stand and said Buckley tried to sexually assault her in a graveyard, then sometime later forced himself on her. She wept openly, and the judge halted the proceeding for several minutes.

Prosecutors Patel and Rachel Africk had planned to present DNA evidence linking Buckley to the crime through a towel that has tested positive for his semen.

Buckley remains jailed in lieu of \$2.8 million bond.

Christopher Bowman, a spokesman for District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro, emphasized that Buckley's change of plea came with no breaks.

"We're going to seek the max penalty that we can get on him," he said.

.....

John Simerman can be reached at [jsimerman@timespicayune.com](mailto:jsimerman@timespicayune.com) or 504.826.3330.

**Related topics:** [new orleans courts](#), [new orleans crime](#), [nopa](#)

Inappropriate post? [Alert us.](#)

#### Sponsored Links

##### Free Millionaire Dating

Real Millionaires Looking To Date. Create & View Free Profiles Today!

[www.DateAMillionaire.com](http://www.DateAMillionaire.com)

##### Dating for Singles

Chat, Flirt, Meet, It's that Easy. Register Now and Meet Local Singles

[jSingles.net](http://jSingles.net)

##### 2011 Year-End Clearance

Save Thousands On A New Car. Dealers Just Cut Prices.

[www.Reply.com](http://www.Reply.com)

Share this story

Story tools

Email

Print

#### More stories in New Orleans Metro Crime and Courts News

Previous story

[St. Tammany Parish jury acquits Slidell-area man of rape in 2005 case](#)

Next story

[Florida Parishes Juvenile Justice Commission trying to recoup some of stolen funds](#)



#### Most Active Users

[What's this?](#)

Users with the most **NOLA.com** comments in the last 7 days

181



<https://www....>

150



[herpid](#)

87



[Stannum](#)

85



[LSU001999](#)

83



[mpdal](#)

#### Connect with NOLA.com

[What's this?](#)

[All Facebook & Twitter accounts »](#)

#### Recommendations



**Jordan Jefferson, Josh Johns turn themselves in, suspended indefinitely**

215 people recommend this.

**Ellis Marsalis Center for Music opens in Musicians' Village**

443 people recommend this.



**Hurricane Irene advice offered by former New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin**

88 people recommend this.



**Local actor who played cop on 'Treme' is identified as man pulled from Mississippi River**

373 people recommend this.

Facebook social plugin

#### From Our Advertisers

[Advertise With Us »](#)