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## Former bus driver pleads guilty to molestation charges, sentenced to 25 years in prison

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Jeffery David Carter

A former police officer and school bus driver had nothing to say when he pleaded guilty in Floyd County Superior Court to aggravated child molestation Monday, March 7.

Jeffery David Carter, 50, of 45 The Trail, Lindale, was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

"You'll be an old man before you get out," said Floyd County Superior Court Judge Jack Niedrach.

Carter was arrested in November 2010 and charged with aggravated child molestation, enticing a child for indecent purposes, and statutory rape.

Jury selection for a trial was scheduled for Monday, but Carter pleaded guilty to one count of aggravated child molestation, enticing a child for indecent purposes and one count of statutory rape. He was sentenced to 25 years in prison and a life term on probation.

Carter said he had nothing to say when given the opportunity to address the court.

Carter, a former Rome police officer, was a Floyd County school bus driver and volunteer with the Civil Air Patrol and TigerFlight in Rome. It was at TigerFlight where police say Carter met his alleged victim.

The victim, a small girl who the judge described as brave, faced Carter in court on Monday.

The victim said after she reported the abuse by Carter, she was given a book with statistics on child molestation.

"It said that one out of four girls is sexually abused and there are 39 million survivors. I will be on of those survivors. I will get through this," she said.

The victim said the abuse resulted in her inability to find people to trust.

"People are not who they say they are. I got close to someone who wasn't who he said he was," she said.

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She admits that coming forward with the abuse was difficult, but she did it for all of the other victims of child molestation.

"I want to lower that 39 million a little bit," she said.

Niedrach told the girl that she had earned respect and admiration by coming forward.

"This definitely abused this victim's trust. He stood in a mentor relationship to her and took advantage of that," said

District Attorney Leigh Patterson.

According to testimony during a December bail hearing, a Floyd County police officer reported that the victim told police Carter had sexual contact with her in his home, vehicle and at the TigerFlight facility at Richard B. Russell Regional Airport.

Carter is also facing multiple charges in Cobb County including child molestation, sodomy, enticing a child for indecent purposes and furnishing alcohol to a minor, Patterson said.

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