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## Former detective sentenced to 6 years for sexual abuse

By: Megan Cruz

*A former Albany police detective and Capital Region D.A.R.E. officer was sentenced in Rensselaer County Court to six years in prison for sexually abusing a boy over the course of two years. Megan Cruz has the details.*



TROY, N.Y. -- Some of Paul Pierce's last words before being sentenced Friday: "I promise I will continue to live my life helping and caring for others any way I can."

The former Albany Police Detective and D.A.R.E. officer had been found guilty by a judge back in April of sexually abusing a teenage boy he's related to in 2009 and 2010.

"The court is sentencing the defendant to a four year term, with five years post release supervision," said Rensselaer County Court Judge Robert Jacon.

That's just the decision for the first felony count of third degree criminal sex act. He's actually been convicted of two counts, as well as one misdemeanor count of endangering the welfare of a child, so in total, Pierce will be serving six years in state prison, followed by 10 years post release supervision.

Rensselaer County isn't the only court Pierce faced charges in. He also has pending cases in Albany and Warren counties because it's believed he brought the teen to a home in Albany and a camp in Chestertown. But in an effort to speed things up, all three courts have agreed to offer him a plea deal: Plead guilty in Albany and Warren county courts and waive his right to an appeal. In return, instead of getting the maximum eight years from each court, he'll get a six year sentence from all three to be served simultaneously.

"We discussed this with the family and we felt that was the right thing to do and they felt that was the right thing to do," said Rensselaer County District Attorney Richard McNally. "So they're going to get some closure here and Paul Pierce is going to be in prison in a little over two weeks."

"Hopefully all of this is behind us," said a family member of the victim that YNN is choosing not to name to protect the identity of the teen.

He says while Pierce is getting what he deserves, he's still disappointed.

"He did not apologize to my family for all that he's put my kids through. He just apologized to his own family and I think that this continues to be his personality, that he's a sociopath and pathological liar."

Since the sexual abuse, this family member says the teen has been in and out of psychiatric hospitals and has even attempted suicide. But he says knowing Pierce will be behind bars in the next couple weeks has been comforting.

[6/15/2012 Former DARE officer sentencing adjourned until next week](#)