

WILLIAM "BILL" EDDINS
STATE ATTORNEY



P.O. Box 12726
Pensacola, FL 32591
Telephone: (850) 595-4200
Website: <http://sa01.co.escambia.fl.us>

OFFICE OF
STATE ATTORNEY
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

December 21, 2020

PRESS RELEASE

State Attorney Bill Eddins announced that on December 18, 2020 James Preston Forrester was sentenced by Circuit Judge Jan Shackelford on two counts of Lewd or Lascivious Molestation (victim under 12 years of age) to 40 years state prison followed by lifetime sex offender probation. Of the 40 years, 25 years must be served as a minimum mandatory. The defendant was also designated as a sexual predator.

The charges arose from an investigation conducted by the Escambia County Sheriff's Office after the victim disclosed the ongoing abuse to a family member. The defendant was arrested on October 3, 2019. The victim stated that the sexual abuse started when they were 8 years old and had been ongoing for almost two years at the time it was reported to law enforcement.

The investigation and arrest were conducted by the Escambia County Sheriff's Office. Assistant State Attorney Carrie Gilmer prosecuted the case. For further information, please contact Ms. Gilmer at 850-595-4500.