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## ***CHESNEE MAN RECEIVES LIFE PRISON SENTENCE FOR CHILD SEX ASSAULT***

A Chesnee man received a life prison sentence today after a Spartanburg County jury decided that he sexually assaulted a young girl on multiple occasions.

Anthony N. Briggs, 26, was found guilty of first-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor and lewd act on a minor at the conclusion of a three-day jury trial. Circuit Judge Derham Cole issued the maximum penalty allowed under state law for the criminal sexual conduct conviction. He received a concurrent 15-year prison sentence for the lewd act conviction. Briggs will serve the balance of his life behind bars. He is not eligible for parole.

A friend of the family reported the crime on Feb. 2, 2009. The child, who was 5-years-old at the time of the initial report, described sex acts in detail during a forensic examination at the Children's Advocacy Center. Briggs was the live-in boyfriend of the victim's mother and assaulted the victim after her siblings left for school and her mother went to work.

Assistant Solicitor Susan Reese relied on the testimony of the victim, law enforcement and therapists to build their case.

"The defendant underestimated this little girl," Reese said.

Briggs' prior criminal record dated back to 2001 and it included convictions for driving under the influence, disturbing schools, grand larceny, criminal domestic violence, fraudulent checks and simple assault and battery.

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