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Appellate Division Unanimously Upholds Conviction of Rapist That Was Sentenced to 50 Years to Life in State Prison



ALBANY, NY – District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that the New York Appellate Division, Third Department, unanimously upheld the 2012 rape conviction of Patrick Hughes. The decision can be found [here](#).

On June 5, 2012, PATRICK HUGHES, then 38, of Watervliet, NY, was sentenced to 50 years to life in State Prison before the Hon. Joseph Teresi in Albany County Court.

HUGHES was previously found guilty after jury trial to (1) Count of Predatory Sexual Assault Against a Child, a Class "A-II" Felony, (1) Count of Rape in the First Degree, a Class "B" Felony, (1) Count of Rape in the Second Degree, a Class "D" Felony, and (3) Counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child, all Class "A" Misdemeanors.

From 2003 to 2009 HUGHES engaged in criminal sexual activity with a victim, who at the time was between 11 and 14 years old. These incidents included times where he would use sexual abuse as a form of "punishment." HUGHES was also found guilty of forcing minors to drink excessive amounts of alcohol.

The defendant appealed the conviction, raising a number of issues, including the introduction of hearsay statements, the admissibility of expert testimony in the area of child sexual abuse accommodation

syndrome, the weight and sufficiency of the evidence, and the severity of the sentence. The Appellate Division did not agree, and unanimously upheld the verdicts and sentence.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Chantelle Cleary of the Special Victims Unit.

The appeal was handled by Steven Sharp of the Legal Affairs Bureau.

For more information, please contact Cecilia Walsh at (518) 275-4710.

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