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For Immediate Release

September 8, 2025

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Jury Convicts Samuels of Rape of Child

A New Hanover County Jury has convicted Michael Samuels of multiple charges following a trial that began on August 25, 2025. Samuels, age 44 of Wilmington, was found guilty of four counts of sex offense with a child, rape of a child, and three counts of taking indecent liberties with a child.

The victim, now a teenager, disclosed the abuse to her family in November of 2020 and the Wilmington Police Department was notified. An investigation by WPD showed that in 2015 the defendant, who was a family friend, sexually abused the victim, who was four years old at the time, on multiple occasions over the course of the year.

District Attorney Jason W. Smith said, "The prosecution of crimes against children remains one of our primary missions. We cannot do this important work without our partners in law enforcement and at the Carousel Center. We are grateful for the collaboration: these cases are stronger and we serve victims best when we work together to achieve these significant results."

The Hon. Henry Stevens sentenced the defendant to 600 - 840 months active prison time in the NC Division of Adult Correction. Upon his release from prison the defendant will be required to register as a sex offender for the remainder of his life.



Michael Samuels

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