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Pender County Man Sentenced to Twenty Years in Prison

On November 19, 2025, Jorge Salazar-Santiago pled guilty to First Degree Statutory Rape and First Degree Statutory Sex Offense. Judge Billy J. Strickland of Wayne County sentenced Salazar-Santiago to prison for 240 to 348 months.

Salazar-Santiago began sexually abusing a relative when she was in the third grade and continued to physically and sexually abuse her until it was reported when she was in high school. Once the abuse was reported, the Pender County Sheriff's Office began a thorough investigation, and the Carousel Center conducted several forensic interviews with the victim in the case. A recorded phone call was made between the victim and Salazar-Santiago where he acknowledges having sex with the child. When the Pender County Sheriff's Office went to question Salazar-Santiago, he ran and was found by a K-9 Deputy hiding in the woods. He was subsequently placed under arrest and remained in custody until he was sentenced.



Jorge Salazar-Santiago