

## Former pastor sentenced to 26 years for sex crimes

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BERKELEY COUNTY, SC (WCSC) - A former Goose Creek pastor was sentenced to 26 years in prison last week after pleading guilty to sexually abusing a young girl over an eight-year period.

James Doscher, 63, of Ladson, was sentenced to 26 years for first-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor, 20 years for second-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor, and 15 years for committing a lewd act on a child.

The sentences will run concurrently and he must serve 85% of his sentence before he is eligible for parole.

Assistant Solicitor Anne Williams, of the Ninth Circuit Solicitor's Special Victims Unit, explained, "Doscher was only subject to the sentencing ranges in law at the time of the offenses and because the crimes occurred ten years ago, the maximum time he could have been sentenced to on the most serious charge was up to 30 years."

Doscher previously was the pastor of New Life Church in Goose Creek and a witness for the defendant stated that Doscher presided more recently as a small group leader at Faith Assembly in Summerville, according to Williams.

Williams said the abuse began when the victim was approximately 8 years old and it continued until she was 14 years old.

The victim made a report to family members when she was 12 but no action was taken, Williams said.

Williams said the victim disclosed again, this time to law enforcement, after she became an adult. Her final report was to her fear that other children may be suffering Doscher's abuse.

Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson noted that, "this prosecution and the hefty sentence is a great message to victims who have not yet been heard. While these cases often have evidentiary challenges, we are willing to work victims and their families to fight for them. It is never too late to come forward."

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