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Man sentenced to state prison in sexual assault of 6-year-old

East Rockhill Twp. resident to be confined for 5 to 10 years.

December 16, 2004 | By Pamela Lehman Of The Morning Call

A 22-year-old East Rockhill Township man received a state prison sentence Monday for the sexual assault of a 6-year-old girl.

John Edwards of 1936 N. Rockhill Road pleaded guilty in August in Bucks County Court to charges of involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, indecent assault, sexual assault and corruption of minors.



Edwards admitted assaulting the girl between February 2002 and October 2003.

After statements from the girl's parents, county Judge Rea Boylan handed down a five- to 10-year state prison sentence.

Boylan also ordered Edwards to five years of probation and to participate in sex offender treatment while in prison.

"The parents expressed a great deal of sadness and anger and said they hope he uses his time in prison to better himself," said Daniel Sweeney, Bucks County assistant district attorney.

Sweeney declined to comment on the sentence.

The girl is in counseling and Edwards wrote a letter of apology for his actions, Sweeney said.

Edwards has been in Bucks County Prison since his arrest in March.

According to a criminal complaint:

The girl told her parents about the assault in March, and then told Pennridge Regional police officers that Edwards had assaulted her about 10 times.

Edwards confessed to abusing the girl about five times.

"Basically, [Edwards] said he was curious," said Pennridge Detective Patrick Karcher.

Edwards was a volunteer for the Bethel Baptist Church and worked in youth programs. Sweeney said the assaults did not happen at the church.

He said Edwards has no previous criminal record.

Edwards did not meet the criteria of a sexually violent predator, but will still be required to register his address with police when he is released from prison, Sweeney said.

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