

**GINGER BOWDEN MADDEN**  
STATE ATTORNEY



OFFICE OF  
**STATE ATTORNEY**  
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

May 10, 2024

**PRESS RELEASE**

(Okaloosa County, Florida), On May 9, 2024, Phillip Vincent Lee was sentenced by Circuit Judge John Gontarek to 25 years in Florida's Department of Corrections followed by the remainder of his life on Sex Offender Probation with a GPS monitor. He was also designated a Sexual Predator and will be required to register as such for life. The Defendant was sentenced after being found guilty at trial of Lewd or Lascivious Molestation of a Victim under 12 years; Defendant over 18 years.

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On March 21-22, 2024, the jury heard evidence that on February 18, 2020, the then 7-year-old victim, was sexually abused by the defendant while he was staying with her family. The victim did not initially disclose this abuse to anyone since the defendant told her not to tell and that no one would believe her if she did. Investigation into this sexual abuse was initiated months later after the defendant told his brother that he had inappropriately touched a child and his brother reported this to local police in Robertsedale, Alabama. Investigators were able to identify the victim, who resided in Okaloosa County, and she confirmed that the defendant had sexually abused her. The child was then seen at the Emerald Coast Childrens' Advocacy Center for a forensic interview.

The investigation was conducted by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, the Robertsedale Police Department, and the Emerald Coast Childrens' Advocacy Center. Assistant State Attorney, Christine Bosau, prosecuted this case on behalf of Ginger Bowden Madden, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida. For further information, please contact Ms. Bosau at 850-400-3488 x232.