



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Child Molester Will Spend 30 Years in Prison

Date: February 26, 2015

Between January 2010 and October 2013, Felix Montanez repeatedly molested two children under nine years of age. The offenses occurred in various places, at various times.

In October of 2013, one of the children did something extremely brave. The child told a parent about the sexual abuse. The parent immediately notified the Hernando County Sheriff's Office, and the investigation began.

During the initial conversation that the first child had with parents, facts came to light regarding another possible victim. The parents of the original victim contacted the parents of the second possible victim.

The parents of the second possible victim conferred with the child, and the facts were confirmed. The child had in fact been victimized by Felix Montanez, since 2010.

The second child's parents immediately reported the crimes to the Hernando County Sheriff's Office.

On 10-23-13, Felix Montanez was arrested in conjunction with both of these cases.

Detective Brent Stentz has worked tirelessly with the State Attorney's Office since that time to bring these cases to a successful resolution.

On 02-25-15, Assistant State Attorney Erin Daly advised that Felix Montanez agreed to a 30-year sentence in the Department of Corrections, followed by 30 years probation.

Detectives advised that this successful prosecution would not have been possible without the very brave young victims coming forward, being willing to tell their story to their parents, and knowing that their parents would believe them.

Additionally, the teamwork and assistance that detectives received from the State Attorney's Office, the Child Advocacy Center, the Department of Children and Families, and the Child Protection Team was instrumental in allowing the children to feel comfortable and safe throughout the entire process.

It is important for both parents and children to know, if a child is the victim of a violent crime such as sexual abuse, there are many resources that are available to provide assistance to the child and to the family.