



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

April 16, 2014

**PRESS RELEASE**

State Attorney Bill Eddins announced that Ernest Lerenza Parker was sentenced today by Santa Rosa Circuit Judge John Simon to 25 years in prison followed by 10 years of sex offender probation. Parker was convicted by a Santa Rosa County Jury on March 7, 2014 of three counts of Sexual Misconduct. Parker was employed as a medical technician at the Milton Girls Juvenile Residential Facility from March 2012 until December 2012. During the time of his employment, the 53 year old Milton man engaged in various sexual acts with several of the girls who were committed to the facility. These crimes were reported to law enforcement during an investigation of physical abuse that had occurred at the juvenile facility. The Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office and Department of Juvenile Justice conducted an extensive investigation which resulted in Parker's arrest. Parker admitted to investigators that he had touched several of the juveniles in a sexual manner. During the trial the girls testified that Parker had touched them inappropriately, engaging in sexual acts with some them. The Milton juvenile facility was closed on December 24, 2012.

Assistant State Attorney Stephanie Pace prosecuted the case. For further information, please contact Stephanie Pace at (850) 983-4453.