



## Ex-deputy gets 5 to 10 years in rape cases

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By **Alan Hayakawa**

A former Dauphin County sheriff's deputy pleaded no contest today to raping five underage girls in exchange for a 5-to-10 year prison term.

Steve A. Lincoln, 51, appearing gaunt in a yellow prison jumpsuit, entered the pleas to three different cases in a deal with Dauphin County prosecutors. He has been held in Lancaster County Prison since his arrest in June 2006.

A no contest plea is an admission that the prosecution could prove its case and carries the same consequences as a guilty plea. Lincoln pleaded to four counts of rape and corruption of minors and one count each of involuntary deviate sexual intercourse and indecent assault.

Under the terms of the agreement, Lincoln will serve 5-to-10 years in a state prison followed by 10 years of probation. He is subject to sexual offenders registration and must undergo a Megan's Law evaluation.

Judge Todd A. Hoover scheduled formal sentencing for May 14.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Sean M. McCormack said he began a grand jury investigation after two rape allegations, dated to 2000 and 2004, were made to the Harrisburg Police Department. The girls were 8 and 7 at the time of the incidents.

After the first set of charges were made public, more victims came forward, McCormack said. Authorities said none of the attacks was connected to his job as a deputy sheriff.

Lincoln was charged with raping a woman who is now 21 at least four times from 1997 to 1999 when she was between the ages of 12 and 14. The victim said Lincoln would pick her up at her house in Harrisburg and take her to his apartment in Steelton, where the assaults occurred.

Two more victims later came forward with allegations dating to 1990.

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