

No prison time for former Pike County chief deputy

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WAVERLY — A former Pike County Sheriff's Office chief deputy was sentenced to community control on a child sex abuse charge.

In April, Clyde Franklin Sanders Jr. pleaded no contest to a single count of gross sexual imposition, a third-degree felony, as part of a plea agreement with prosecutors from the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

According to the Pike County Clerk of Courts office, Sanders was sentenced Monday to five years of community control and could go to prison for up to four years if he violates community control standards.

He also was classified as a Tier II sex offender, meaning Sanders will have to register his address and other information with his local sheriff's office every 180 days for 25 years.

"The decision to enter into a plea agreement was made with the support of the victim and her family in order to protect the juvenile from testifying and reliving the trauma of the sexual abuse," said Dan Tierney, spokesman for the Ohio Attorney General's office.

Prosecutors did not make any sentence recommendation as part of the plea agreement.

Sanders, who worked under former Sheriff Larry Travis, originally faced two counts of kidnapping, one count of rape and one count of gross sexual imposition, but they were amended to the single count he pleaded no contest to in April.

Because of Sanders' former position in Pike County, the case had prosecutors assigned from the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Retired Ross County Judge Jhan Corzine had been appointed to preside over the case.

According to the indictment, the gross sexual imposition charge stemmed from an alleged October 2008 encounter with a 3-year-old girl Sanders knew. The rape charge, which was dropped as a condition of the plea agreement, had alleged another encounter with the same child in January 2009.