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## Man imprisoned for sex with underage Enfield girls

By Zachary F. Vasile

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A man convicted of having a three-way sexual encounter with two underage Enfield girls, one 14 and the other 12, when he was 18 was sentenced Tuesday in Hartford Superior Court on Tuesday to spend two years in prison.

Judge Laura F. Baldini gave Sage Lanza, now 22, a 10-year sentence, suspended after two years behind bars, followed by with five years of probation.

The sentence was part of an agreement that saw Lanza plead guilty to a count of risk of injury to a child in exchange for having far more serious charges, including sexual assault, dropped.

Lanza, who has listed addresses on North Maple Street in Enfield and in Panama City, Florida, was also facing a separate case centering on his relationship with the 14-year-old, which authorities say resulted in her getting pregnant and having an abortion under pressure from him. He was originally charged with first-degree sexual assault, fourth-degree sexual assault, and illegal sexual contact in that case, but prosecutors agreed to drop those charges entirely in their plea offer.

Baldini said that, in determining Lanza's sentence, she had to weigh the seriousness of the charges with the fact that Lanza had no criminal record, has sought treatment, and has complied with the terms of his release from custody while awaiting his case's disposition.

"In cases like this, there really are no individuals who are satisfied or happy," she said. "I'm sure for Mr. Lanza, the concept of walking into prison for the next two years is a long time to be separated from the people who care a lot about you. For the victims' family members, I'm sure that no amount of time would be satisfying."

Lanza was arrested in April 2016 by Florida authorities and extradited to Connecticut to face sexual-assault charges after authorities began investigating his relationship with the two younger girls.

Affidavits supporting Lanza's arrest claim that the older girl told Enfield police that she had a relationship with Lanza starting in February 2014 and continuing on until April 2015. She also said that he got her pregnant in November 2014, while she was still 14, and claimed that Lanza forced her to have an abortion.

The affidavits do not explain how the girl alleged that Lanza forced her to have the abortion, but did include her statement that Lanza made an appointment for her at Planned Parenthood in Enfield and that Lanza's father had driven her to the clinic.

Investigators said that girl also revealed the details of the sexual encounter between Lanza, her and the 12-year-old girl.

According to the affidavits, the younger girl confirmed that the encounter had occurred at her house in August of 2014 and said Lanza was aware of her age.

Lanza originally pleaded not guilty to the charges in the case centering only on the 14-year-old but withdrew those pleas in November when he agreed to plead guilty to the risk-of-injury charge.

Before Tuesday's sentencing, Baldini allowed two members of the victims' families to make known their feelings and concerns about the case.

Tina Greaves, who serves as a victim services advocate for the Hartford Judicial District, read aloud a statement made by the mother of the one of the girls.

"I hope the defendant remembers the promise I made him the night that he had enough nerve to knock on my front door wanting to speak to my daughter," the statement read. "I promised him that night that if it took me until the day I die, to my last breath, I would see to it that he would pay for what he had done to my daughter."

The second statement was delivered in person by the younger girl's father, who at times paused to compose and calm himself while addressing the court.

"There's something terribly wrong when an 18-year-old young adult looks to a 12-year-old child as a part of a twisted fantasy," he said. "But Sage, you did. You're a rapist. You're a manipulating predator."

He called Lanza "lucky" for having "a father who will spend thousands of dollars" for his defense and lamented that, at least in the state of Connecticut, the rights of victims were trumped by concern for defendants.

He also took a shot at prosecutor Chris Pelosi, who handled the case.

"Hey, it was just sex — isn't that right, Mr. Pelosi?" he asked sarcastically. "Thank you for the minutes of time you spent for my daughter."

The man also told the court that he doubted that Lanza could be successfully rehabilitated and said no amount of incarceration or supervision will change the fact that he is a predator.

"Lanza, you're lucky," he said. "When I found out about this crime against my daughter, two thoughts crossed my mind. I took a deep breath, chose the second, and here we are today."