

NEWS RELEASE

# Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## AG STRANGE ANNOUNCES SENTENCING FOR 1996 RAPE IN COVINGTON COUNTY

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange announced that a man was sentenced today for the second-degree rape of a 15-year-old girl in 1996 in Covington County. Milton Darrell Freeman was sentenced in Covington County Circuit Court to 65 months imprisonment, which was suspended for a term of five years supervised probation. He was ordered to pay court costs and fees and a \$100 fine to the Alabama Victims Compensation Commission. He was further ordered to have no contact with his victim and to avoid contact with girls aged under 18 years except for family members. He is required to register as a sex offender and abide by requirements of sex offender laws. Freeman, now 41, is listed on court records as a resident of Cottondale, FL.

“After many years, justice has been achieved for the young victim who suffered from the criminal acts of this man,” said Attorney General Strange. “There is no statute of limitations for sex crimes against children, and it is appropriate that this man will finally be held to account and punished for the harm he caused.”

Although the crime was not immediately prosecuted due to family concerns at the time, the victim later came to the Attorney General’s Office and asked for the case to be reopened. Evidence included the victim’s complaint that her brother-in-law had raped her, the defendant’s admission in a statement to the Department of Human Resources that he had sexual intercourse with the victim when she was 15, and his later admission in a 2007 custody trial that he had touched her in private areas of her body.

Following a thorough investigation of the matter, the Attorney General’s Office presented evidence to a grand jury in 2011, resulting in Freeman’s indictment. When confronted by a prosecutor at trial with evidence of his earlier statements, he admitted to the crime. Freeman was convicted by a jury in Covington County Circuit Court on August 22.

Attorney General Strange commended those involved in bringing this case to a successful conclusion, noting in particular Special Agents of his Investigations Division, Assistant Attorney General Stephanie Billingslea and Paralegal Lori Arnold of his Criminal Trials Division.

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