

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA



OFFICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

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**June 15, 2017
For Immediate Release
Portsmouth, Virginia**

Arthur Burke Sentenced to Life in Prison for Rape and Indecent Liberties

On June 14, 2017 in the Portsmouth Circuit Court, Arthur Burke, age 30, was sentenced to life in prison for the rape of a child under the age of 13, which occurred back in October of 2012.

On April 11, 2017, Burke pleaded not guilty all charges against him. The victim of his crimes was under the age of 13 at the time of the offense. The Portsmouth Commonwealth's Attorney's Office presented evidence before a jury over a period of two days. At the conclusion of the jury trial Burke was convicted of Rape and Indecent Liberties by a Custodian. The jury recommended a sentence of life in prison, the mandatory minimum for Rape of a child under the age of 13, and a fine of \$2,500 for Indecent Liberties by a Custodian. Arthur Burke was formally sentenced on June 14, 2017 in the Portsmouth Circuit Court, where the jury recommendation was imposed. The defendant stated in open court during the sentencing hearing that if he was going to be sentenced to the rest of his life in prison, he might as well be executed.

This case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Shaniqua Clark Nelson.

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