

## **SENTENCE:** Victim, then 14-year-old pupil, tells of lasting scars

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sometimes discussed the girl's sexuality and at some point their relationship expanded to touching, masturbation and oral sex.

Police would later find that Fusco had also planted a hidden camera in his bedroom that he used to record three young girls as they changed into bathing suits.

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Terry Mariani said the case cried out for the maximum sentence allowed under a negotiated plea deal. Fusco was convicted of first-degree possession of child pornography, second-degree sexual assault and three counts of voyeurism. He faced up to 10 years in prison, according to that deal.

Fusco violated the woman and broke the trust he had developed with her and her family, Mariani said. He called Fusco a predator who had contact with his high school students, asking them to go on hikes and if he could check them for ticks afterward. Mariani also said Friday that a review of Fusco's computers and other devices revealed he had posed as a college student conducting a sexual "survey."

Fusco sent that "survey" out to his family members, asking them graphic sexual questions and requesting naked photos.

Mariani said he offered respondents \$100 for answering perverted questions.

During the investigation, Detective Peter Morgan performed a detailed analysis of computers seized from Fusco's home, finding child porn

that included children as young as 3 having sex with adults.

"He wants to have sex with girls who are 13 or 14 years old," Mariani said of Fusco. "What is unforgivable is that he pursued a relationship with an underage girl for a number of years."

The woman's mother told Judge Richard Damiani that Fusco had brainwashed her and her family into trusting him, a trust he ultimately violated. She called Fusco a pedophile and a monster. Now she constantly worries about her daughters because of him.

Fusco's attorney, Leonard Crone, said Fusco was sexually abused when he was younger. In asking for a five-year sentence, he said Fusco didn't have a criminal record.

Fusco, who blew a kiss to his family as he arose from the courtroom audience to face Damiani, said he has benefited from therapy, which he considered rehabilitation.

"I understand I am guilty for the poor decisions I have made in my past," Fusco said. "The person who made those mistakes is someone who I have tried to change."

Damiani told Fusco his actions went beyond molestation, telling him that he forever changed the woman's life. "That family, because of your actions, will never be the same," Damiani said.

Fusco will have to register as a sex offender for 10 years after he's released from prison.

He'll also have to serve 20 years of probation.