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## **James Howard Jr. sentenced to 45 years in prison for Child Molesting**

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Marion County Prosecutor Ryan Mears announced today that James Howard Jr. has been sentenced to 45 years in prison for Child Molesting (Level 1 Felony), Kidnapping (Level 5 Felony), and Criminal Confinement (Level 5 Felony). Howard was found to be a Habitual Offender and received an enhanced sentence for this crime. Howard was convicted after a three-day court trial in September.

On Aug. 16, 2022, IMPD officers were dispatched to a park located in the 3300 block of Forest Manor Ave. Upon arrival, officers located the victim who called 911 and stated that she was assaulted by Howard. In the aftermath of the incident, the community played an essential role in identifying and locating Howard.

The Victim and Witness Assistance Program funds played an essential role in the successful prosecution of Howard. Special Victims prosecutors transported the victim to and from Indianapolis to ensure a testimony was heard.

### **Prosecutor Mears issued the following statement following Howard's conviction:**

"The young survivor in this case has repeatedly shown admirable courage throughout this extremely difficult process. Her testimony ultimately put law enforcement and prosecutors in a position to ensure that the defendant cannot harm others in our community," Prosecutor Mears stated. "This case demonstrates our trial teams' willingness to go above and beyond to secure justice on behalf of victims and their families."