



PRESS RELEASE
Essex County Prosecutors Office
50 West Market Street
Newark, NJ

Newark Man Sentenced to 25 Years for Sexually Assaulting Eight-Year-Old

April 14, 2021

Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens, II, announced today that Diego Ayala, 35, of Newark, was sentenced yesterday to 25 years in New Jersey State Prison for sexually assaulting an eight-year-old girl and filming the crime.

Sentence was imposed by the Honorable Christopher S. Romanyshyn, Judge of the Superior Court. Under the terms of a plea agreement, Ayala must serve the entire 25 years before he is eligible for parole.

Ayala previously pled guilty to two counts of first-degree aggravated sexual assault of a victim under the age of 13 and one count of first-degree endangering the welfare of a child.

When he entered his guilty plea, Ayala admitted to sexually assaulting the 8-year-old victim and filming the sexual assaults of the victim on his cellphone.

The Essex County Prosecutor's Office Special Victim's Unit, with assistance of the Newark Police Department, investigated the case.

Assistant Prosecutor Nicole Buermann, who handled the case, said "We want to thank the courageous young victim for coming forward and we hope this sentence will provide some sense of healing and closure."

Ayala will be required to serve the entire 25-year sentence pursuant to the Jessica Lunsford Act and additionally was sentenced to Parole Supervision for Life and will be required to register under Megan's Law.