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James Menize
Press Release
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On October 19, 2011 James Menize, 47, of Johnson, was sentenced by Judge Dennis Pearson in Vermont Superior Court, Lamoille Criminal Division to serve 20 years to life in jail for two convictions of Aggravated Sexual Assault of two victims under 13 years of age.

The cases were investigated by the Lamoille Special Investigation Unit and were prosecuted by Deputy State's Attorney Todd Shove. The convictions resulted from a jury verdict following a trial in which evidence showed that on February 27, 2010, James Menize engaged in sexual acts with two children under the age of thirteen.

Menize is currently incarcerated at the Northern State Correctional Facility in Newport. According to Lamoille County Deputy State's Attorney Todd Shove, it is anticipated that Menize will be required to engage in sex offender treatment in order to be considered for release at his twenty year minimum.

The Lamoille County Special Investigation Unit (LCSIU) has been in existence since 2007. The primary goal of the LCSIU is to conduct criminal investigations and provide victim services in response to reports of *child sexual abuse, sexual offenses, domestic assault, serious child physical abuse, as well as abuse of vulnerable adults and the elderly* in Lamoille County. The LCSIU consists of two full-time investigators, a prosecutor, and a full-time victim advocate. The investigators and the prosecutor receive specialized training to ensure a successful investigation and prosecution in these very sensitive cases. The administrative operations are handled by an executive director and an administrative assistant. A Board of Directors representative of the different agencies that are involved in this collaborative effort was formed to oversee the LCSIU.

The LCSIU strives to promote cooperative efforts between police agencies, the prosecutor's office, the medical community, child protection services, and victim advocacy groups. The main focus is to reduce stress and trauma to the victim and their family.

The Lamoille County Special Investigation Unit has recently launched a new **website** in an effort to reach out to the community. Visit www.lamoillesiu.org for information, resources, tips for parents and guardians, and a list of FAQ's. The website also contains links to the Sex Offender Registry, VT Internet Crimes Against Children, as well as contact and reporting information. The LCSIU victim advocate, Kelli Prescott, is available anytime to answer questions@ 802-888-0508. The unit welcomes your feedback and suggestions regarding the website, e-mails can be sent to info@lamoillesiu.org.