



News Release

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ALAN WILSON
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Former Teacher & Athletics Director Committed to Sexually Violent Predator Program

(COLUMBIA, S.C.) South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson announced a former teacher and athletic director was adjudicated of being a Sexually Violent Predator by a jury in Sumter County on March 31, 2015. He was then civilly committed to the S.C. Department of Mental Health Sexually Violent Predator Treatment Program.

James Donald Bolton (DOB: 1954), a former resident of Dalzell, S.C., was a teacher, coach, and athletic director at Thomas Sumter Academy in Rembert, S.C., and used those positions to gain the trust of his victims and the community. Bolton had his victims spend the night at his home, promised gifts and showed them pornography. Between November 1993 and April 1994, Bolton sexually assaulted a thirteen year-old boy on multiple occasions, and attempted to sexually assault another teenage boy.

A jury convicted Bolton in 1995 of twelve counts involving Disseminating Obscene Material to Persons Under 18, Contributing to the Delinquency of a minor, Lewd Act Upon a Child, and Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor 2nd Degree. He was sentenced to forty years in prison.

Prior to Bolton's scheduled November 2014 release from prison, the State initiated an action under the Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) Act, seeking his civil commitment to the S.C. Department of Mental Health for long-term control, care, and treatment. The State was required to prove beyond a reasonable doubt Bolton was convicted of a sexually violent offense, and he suffers from a mental abnormality or personality disorder that makes him likely to engage in future acts of sexual violence if not confined in a secure facility for treatment.

Bolton will be reviewed annually to assess his mental status, and determine whether his mental abnormality and/or personality disorder has so changed he is safe to be at large.

Christopher A. Morrow of the South Carolina Attorney General's Office represented the State.

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