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Pike duo sentenced to prison

[MARIA NAGLE](#)

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Tearful pleas for leniency by a Pike County man and his former girlfriend did not dissuade a judge from sending them to prison for giving a 15-year-old girl cocaine and then sexually abusing her last summer.

Jerry D. Roof, 27, and Jennifer Orr, 22, pleaded guilty in January to charges stemming from sexual misconduct with the juvenile. The pleas were in exchange for Roof receiving no more than 10 years and Orr up to six years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

After hearing hours of arguments and testimony over two days, Circuit Judge Michael Roseberry on Friday sentenced Roof to five years and three months imprisonment plus 10 years mandatory supervised parole for felony child pornography.

Orr's attorney, Mark Wycoff of Springfield, argued she was another victim of Roof, saying she was "a marionette of another, an actress in a devious scheme."

Roseberry said he believed Orr to be just as culpable as Roof and sentenced her to three and a half years in prison plus two years' supervised parole for aggravated criminal sexual abuse.

After they are released from prison on parole, both Orr and Roof are to serve probation terms the judge also imposed for their guilty pleas to other charges — Roof for criminal sexual abuse and both for delivery of a controlled substance. Several other charges filed against them were dismissed in exchange for their guilty pleas.

They also were ordered to pay \$2,248 restitution as well as the cost of counseling for the victim until she reaches age 18. Conditions of their probation include registering as sex offenders and completing sex offender treatment. The judge placed restrictions on their contacts with children. They also are to have no contact with the victim and another girl who was at the party the night of the incident nor the girls' families.

In asking for the court's forgiveness, Roof said that until the incident he never realized he was an alcoholic and he has been sober for seven months and two weeks now.

"It will kill me to have to tell [my son] that he will not get to see me for quite some time," Roof said tearfully.

Saying she wanted to keep her remarks "short and sweet," Orr told the judge she felt great remorse for what happened that night.

"I wish I could change it," Orr said, crying. "I apologize to the victim, her family and my family."

Roof and Orr were arrested Aug. 10 at their residence in Perry. A camera seized during a search contained photos reportedly taken by Roof of Orr and the girl engaged in graphic sexual acts.

State's Attorney J. Frank McCartney described how the incident occurred based on evidence gathered in the investigation.

During an underage drinking party, the couple gave the victim alcohol and cocaine and she was in a hot tub with Orr before the two females engaged in sexual acts. Roof then photographed the sexual acts. Roof and Orr gave statements to authorities implicating themselves.

The relationship between Orr and Roof ended after their arrests and Roof's new girlfriend, Jessica Schmid, testified on his behalf during the sentencing hearing.

Confidential sources, teenagers or younger, tipped authorities off, McCartney said after the hearing.

"It's just a big load off our shoulders," said the victim's grandfather, who did not want to be identified. "I believe the court system was very fair in what they did. I hate to see anyone have to go to jail, but I think they deserved what they got."