

PRESS RELEASE

Former Ohio Deputy Sentenced to More Than Nine Years in Prison for Sexually Abusing an Inmate

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For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Ohio

CLEVELAND – A former Ohio deputy employed at a detention facility has been sentenced to prison for sexually abusing a female inmate in his custody.

Damon K. Perry, 53, of Youngstown, was sentenced to 112 months (approximately 9.3 years) in prison by U.S. District Judge Donald C. Nugent after he pleaded guilty in May to two counts of sexual abuse of a detainee and two counts of sexual abuse.

"Mr. Perry's abusive and appalling actions against a detainee were a violation of her basic human rights. Using his power of authority to deliberately take advantage of a woman, who he was charged with supervising, is dishonorable and despicable," said **U.S. Attorney David M. Toepfer for the Northern District of Ohio**. "We thank the DOJ's Office of the Inspector General for investigating this matter."

According to the plea agreement, Perry admitted to engaging in a sexual act with a female inmate under federal detention at the Mahoning County Jail on two dates in November 2023. The correctional facility, located in Youngstown, Ohio, serves under contract with a federal law enforcement agency to house detainees at their direction as needed.

The first sexual act committed without the victim's consent occurred Nov. 9, 2023, when the inmate was under Perry's supervision while she was being held in custody. A second incident occurred Nov. 30, 2023, when Perry again engaged in a non-consensual sexual act with the same federal detainee placed under his authority.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of the Inspector General.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney **Yasmine Makridis** for the Northern District of Ohio.