

# New Castle News

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## Former city cop sentenced to house arrest

*Nancy Lowry*

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NEW CASTLE — Former New Castle policeman Richard L. Corbin yesterday was sentenced to 90 days of house arrest.

He also was ordered to serve a minimum of three years probation and pay costs of prosecution and all fees associated with electronic monitoring while on house arrest.

Corbin, 37, of 458 Moore Ave., pleaded guilty March 15 to two counts of corruption of minors and two counts of indecent assault, involving minors who were then 13 and 15.

Lawrence County Common Pleas Judge John W. Hodge imposed the sentences.

On each of the two corruption charges, which Corbin will serve concurrently, he is required to pay costs of prosecution and sentenced to two years in the Intensive Probation Program, the first 30 days to be served on house arrest. Corbin is responsible to pay costs of electronic monitoring. Hodge also ordered him not to possess firearms while on probation.

Corbin will serve the two indecent assault charges consecutively, after he has served the sentence on the corruption charges. On each of these two charges, Corbin is ordered to pay costs of prosecution, serve 30 days to 24 months less one day in the Lawrence County jail with the first 30 days on house arrest followed by one year probation. He was also ordered to enter a program for sexual offenders.

In addition, Hodge ordered him not to seek employment as a municipal police officer and not to work for the New Castle Police Department.

Hodge said Corbin will be notified by the Lawrence County Adult Probation when monitoring equipment becomes available. At that time, he will begin to serve his sentence.

Corbin was arrested July 30, 2008, and initially charged with two counts each of statutory sexual assault, aggravated indecent assault, four counts of corruption of minors, two counts of indecent assault on a person less than 16 years of age, and two counts of furnishing liquor to minors.

The commonwealth made no recommendations for sentencing, but deputy attorney general Laurel Brandstetter said read impact statements from two victims.

The first, from the then-13-year-old, stated, "... I don't know who I am any more. He ruined my teenage life. I'll never forget and never get over what he did."

The second letter was from the girl's grandmother, who said, "Your actions took her teenage years." She chastised Corbin for "violating the oath you took as a police officer." She said the family is proud of the young victim for telling the truth.

Defense attorney Richard Joyce of Pittsburgh reminded the judge, "The case has changed drastically from what it was to what it is today."

Joyce said some might think Corbin got a break by entering a plea. "The evidence did not bear out" the serious allegations, he said.

"The victims waited six months before coming forward," Joyce said. "They made their statements, then an hour and 36 minutes later gave a second statement saying that everything in the first statement was a lie."

The attorney adding the victims' testimony changed in each court appearance and said his client has denied that any of the sexual-related charges are true.

"I ask the court to consider only the charges pleaded guilty to, not the original allegations back when the case was initiated."

Joyce also said Corbin had nothing to do with a related case of witness intimidation. This matter remains unresolved in Mercer County, where the two alleged perpetrators live.

Brandstetter — who said Corbin, "abused his position of trust" — noted the "motivation for the plea" was to save the victims — now 14 and 16 — the burden of testifying before a jury.

She said Corbin did receive a benefit from the plea.