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Former Alameda County Sheriff's deputy sentenced for child molestation

By Rick Hurd Contra Costa Times Posted: 12/03/2011 06:54:05 AM PST Updated: 12/03/2011 06:55:00 AM PST

MARTINEZ -- The prosecuting attorney is crediting a child molestation victim and her family for their perseverance after a Concord man convicted of the sexual misconduct was sentenced Friday to three years in prison.

John Eric Freeman, 53, and a former Alameda County Sheriff's Office deputy, must serve at least 2 1/2 years of his sentence, will remain on parole for five years after his release and must register as a sex offender for life, Contra Costa County Deputy District Attorney Paul Graves said.

"The victim waited a long, long time for justice, and they could've quit trying on this a long time ago," Graves said. "It was her perseverance and the family's perseverance that made this happen. To stick with it and stand up in a courtroom and face this man, that takes an awful lot of bravery. They deserve a lot of kudos for sticking with it."

Graves said Judge Brian Haynes "really let (Freeman) have it," in an admonishment before the sentencing. The victim and four other family members addressed Freeman in court before the sentencing.

Graves said Freeman showed no emotion when the sentence was read, staring down at the floor as he was led away.

Freeman was charged in a 2008 police sting for trying to make sexual contact with a minor, Graves said, and served three months in jail. Freeman

also previously was investigated for statutory rape while on duty as a deputy, Graves said.

Rick Hurd covers crime. Contact him at 925-945-4780 and follow him on Twitter at Twitter.com/3rdERH.

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