

CLALLAM COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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Port Angeles, Washington

Sequim Man Sentenced to 10 Years Prison for Child Rape

Clallam County Superior Court Cause No: 25-1-00237-05

On December 10, 2025, Clallam County Superior Court Judge Simon Barnhart sentenced James Barron, 31, of Sequim to 120 months (10 years) prison for rape of a child in the first degree, a class A felony, and electronic communication with a minor for immoral purposes, a class C Felony.

According to the certification for probable cause filed with the court, parents found concerning text messages on their twelve-year-old daughter's two cell phones and alerted law enforcement. Law enforcement's ensuing investigation included a forensic download of the two cell phones, which contained communications that chronicled a relationship between Barron, who was 31 at the time, and the twelve-year-old, who was his niece. Law enforcement also discovered text messages between Barron and the twelve-year-old that included discussion about the "plan B pill" and a miscarriage. There was also a confrontation call between Barron's brother and Barron wherein Barron admitted to his brother a sexual relationship with the twelve-year-old. Barron also admitted to his brother that he loved her and did not force her.

At sentencing the State, represented by Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Michele Devlin, argued that Barron took the innocence of the twelve-year-old victim and forever changed the trajectory of her life. The State further argued that Barron effectively blamed the victim when he said he didn't force her to have sexual relations and pointed out that Barron was the adult in the situation who knew his actions were wrong and illegal. While Barron addressed the Court and apologized to many people, he did not apologize to the victim until he was reminded to do so by the Court. Judge Barnhart stated that he appreciated Barron taking responsibility for his actions, however, noted that his conduct was reprehensible.

Barron's prison sentence is subject to the Indeterminate Sentencing Review Board (ISRB)¹. Being subject to the ISRB means that after an offender serves the sentence imposed by the court, the ISRB will determine if the offender can be released. The ISRB may keep Barron incarcerated for life. As a condition of his sentence, Barron was ordered to have no contact with the victim for the rest of his life, and to complete sex offender treatment and registration. The Court found Barron indigent and waived his legal financial obligations.

"This case presents a tragic reminder of the perils that confront youth within our community," said Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecutor Michele Devlin. "It also demonstrates how technology is being used by law enforcement and prosecutors to hold offenders accountable. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office wishes to thank the Clallam County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Bureau for its thorough investigation in this case."

Office Info:

The Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney's Office employs over 25 people, including 13 attorneys. Clallam County, which includes Forks, Port Angeles and Sequim, has an approximate population of 78,000.

The Criminal Division represents the state and the county in criminal matters in the Clallam County District and Superior Courts. The Criminal Division is responsible for prosecuting all felonies in Clallam County and all misdemeanors in unincorporated areas of Clallam County as well as the Cities of Port Angeles and Sequim.

The Civil Division acts as the law firm representing the County and its agencies. The Civil Division advises and represents all of the County's elected officials and departments on a myriad of complex legal matters. The range of legal representation provided by this unit is expansive and covers virtually every aspect of civil practice.

The Child Support Division is wholly funded by and represents the Division of Child Support of the State of Washington. The Support Division carries out judicial establishment of paternity and child support, enforcements for failure to pay court-ordered child support, and modifications to existing child support orders. The Support Division also represents the State of Washington in collection actions on parents owing a duty of support.

¹ The Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (ISRB or Board) was created in 1986. Before that, the Board had been the Board of Prison Terms and Paroles. The Board is a quasi-judicial board located in the Department of Corrections (DOC). The Board retains independent decision making, and has jurisdiction over persons who committed certain sex offenses on or after September 1, 2001. For more information about the ISRB, go to <http://doc.wa.gov/corrections/isrb/default.htm>.

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