

Man sentenced to 99 years on incest charges

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A Bossier Parish man was sentenced to 99 years in prison Monday for incest.

Gerald Barnes, 72, of Bossier Parish was sentenced by Judge John Robinson after Barnes pled guilty one count of aggravated incest Feb. 9.

The plea comes after Barnes admitted that he raped his daughter several times over a short period in 1989. Authorities say Barnes raped the victim several times at a body shop, pond and church.

The victim pursued charges against Barnes after she turned 21 years of age. However, when the Bossier Sheriff's Office investigated the claim, the mother allegedly dismissed her daughter's claims.

After the victim pursued the charges again, deputies interviewed family members and Barnes admitted to the crime.

"We think we did a service to the public and to be on the victim's side when others weren't, even her own family members. We generally have their best interests in mind and try to advocate on their behalf when they cant. So I think that was a pretty profound aspect of this because we stood behind her even when her own mother wouldn't," said Darius Henderson, assistant district attorney.

Barnes was a convicted rapist and has been released several times for offenses he committed without the knowledge of the victim's mother.

Barnes was convicted for rape in 1965 Yuma, Ariz. He was sentenced to 15-25 years and was released after 10 years and relocated to Louisiana. Then in 1978, he was charged and pled guilty aggravated rape. He served 12 years in Angola and was released in 1988.