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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**RIISING SUN MAN SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS
FOR RAPE AND SEX ABUSE OF MINORS**

ELKTON- On Monday, February 6, 2023, Michael Dale Irwin, 38, of Rising Sun, Maryland plead guilty under two criminal Indictments to Sex Abuse of a Minor and Rape – 2nd Degree in the Circuit Court of Cecil County. He received a total prison sentence of 30 years; 15 years for Rape in the Second Degree in a case charged in 2019 and 15 years for Sex Abuse of a Minor in a case charged in 2022.

In March of 2019, the Maryland State Police received a referral from the Cecil County Child Advocacy Center in reference to a past sexual assault of a child. After further investigation and interviews, the Defendant had been charged with Rape in the Second Degree and other charges. In January of 2022, the Maryland State Police received a referral from Child Protective Services in reference to a past sexual assault of a child (different from the victim in the 2019 case). After another series of interviews and a thorough investigation, the Defendant was charged with Sex Abuse of a Minor. Both children were alleged to have been approximately 5 years old when the sexual abuse occurred.

The Maryland Sentencing Guidelines for Rape in the Second Degree were between 15 and 20 years while the Guidelines for Sex Abuse of a Minor were between 15 and 25 years. The State, represented by State's Attorney, James A. Dellmyer, recommended a sentence of 30 years of active incarceration.

After hearing compelling victim impact statements from both victims, Cecil County Circuit Court Administrative Judge Keith A. Baynes imposed a 30-year prison sentence and required Irwin to register as a Tier III Sex Offender for life. In addition, the Court required Irwin to participate in the COMET program upon release which is intensive supervision through the Department of Parole and Probation and requires sex offender treatment. The Court remarked from the bench that the “[victims] are brave” for coming forward and participating in the criminal justice process to hold Irwin accountable.

At this time, Irwin will return to the federal prison system to serve out the remainder of his federal sentence for a previous case involving the distribution of child pornography. Upon his release from federal prison in 2028, Irwin will immediately be transferred to the Division of Corrections (Maryland) to begin serving his 30-year consecutive sentence.

State’s Attorney James A. Dellmyer says of this sentence, “It has truly been my honor to work with the victims in these cases who exhibited such strength and bravery. Although no amount of prison time can heal the emotional trauma imposed upon the victims by the Defendant, it is my hope that such a sentence can offer justice and closure for the victims so that they may continue their journey of healing. I would like to thank our allied agencies of the Maryland State Police, the Child Advocacy Center, and Child Protective Services for their hard work and continued dedication to the children of Cecil County.”