



Man Gets Life Sentence for Raping 9-Year-Old Girl in Major Abortion Case

State | *Micaiah Bilger* | Jul 6, 2023 | 9:46AM | *Washington, DC*



An Ohio man convicted of raping a 9-year-old girl whose abuse story was thrust into the national news by an Indiana abortionist will spend 25 years to life in prison for his crime.

[KFDI News reports](#) Gerson Fuentes, 28, of Columbus, pleaded guilty to two rape charges Wednesday in Franklin County Court.

Fuentes admitted to raping the girl in the spring of 2022 when she was only 9 years old, according to the report. Shortly after the girl turned 10, a doctor confirmed that she was pregnant, and her family took her to Indiana to have her unborn baby aborted.

At the time, the U.S. Supreme Court had just overturned *Roe v. Wade* and Ohio began enforcing its heartbeat law, which bans most abortions once an unborn baby's heartbeat is detectable. Later, a court order blocked the law; pro-life leaders are appealing to the Ohio Supreme Court.

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On Wednesday, Common Pleas Court Judge Julie Lynch sentenced Fuentes to life in prison with the possibility of parole after 25 to 30 years, [according to the Columbus Dispatch](#). The judge said she could have given him life in prison without parole, but the 25-to-life sentence was based on the family's wishes.

Fuentes, originally from Guatemala, is not a U.S. citizen and may be deported at the end of his sentence, the report states.

The abuse case drew national attention and even President Joe Biden mentioned it after Dr. Caitlin Bernard, the Indiana abortionist who aborted the girl's unborn baby, told the Indianapolis Star about the abuse victim in July 2022.

Bernard's comments thrust the young victim into the national spotlight without her permission or knowledge, prompting action by the Indiana Attorney General's Office.

In an administrative complaint, Attorney General Todd Rokita's Office said Bernard initiated the "media frenzy from the beginning," drawing attention to an "innocent little girl who is trying to cope with a horrific trauma." According to the complaint, two weeks after Bernard's comments were published, a reporter showed up at the girl's house in Ohio with video cameras, [the Star reported at the time](#).

"When Bernard talked about the high priority she puts on legislation and speaking to the public, she did so at the expense of her own patient. This shows where her priorities are as an [abortion] activist rather than a doctor," Rokita's office wrote.

In May, an Indiana medical board [disciplined Bernard for violating patient privacy laws](#).

Bernard also was accused of failing to properly report another potential rape case involving a minor girl. [As LifeNews reported in 2018](#), she and eight other abortion practitioners allegedly failed to file abuse reports in 48 cases involving girls as young as 12 years old.

Abortion activists frequently bring up horrific circumstances like rape to claim there is a need for legalized abortion. But [research and victims' own testimonies](#) refute the claim. Many victims of rape recognize that their unborn babies are second victims and refuse to consider abortion. Others who do share heartbreaking stories about how their abortions – the violent destruction of their unborn babies' lives – only added to their trauma.



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