

24-year term for ex-Bemidji EMT who drugged, raped 13-year-old girl

Article by: [PAUL WALSH](#) , Star Tribune Updated: December 20, 2011 - 9:25 PM

A decertified Bemidji ambulance EMT has been sentenced to prison and was recommended for indefinite civil commitment for stealing narcotics from his employer and drugging a young teenager before raping her in her home.

Arthur Austin-Ellis Evans, 36, of Hackensack, Minn., was sentenced last week in Cass County District Court to 24 years in prison after pleading guilty to raping the girl, 13, in February and sexually assaulting a 22-month-old girl while babysitting them.

Evans, who said he has been addicted to child pornography "since the Internet was invented," admitted stealing the narcotics from Bemidji Ambulance Services while working as an emergency medical technician (EMT). He also admitted videotaping himself raping his younger victim.

Evans received credit for the 306 days he has been in custody since the crimes were reported, however the chances of him ever leaving incarceration are slim.

Judge John P. Smith also said that Evans should be civilly committed after his time in prison ends, meaning he would join hundreds of other sex offenders who have been indefinitely confined in state treatment facilities without reasonable hope for release. His sentence also requires that Evans register as a predatory offender for the rest of his life.

Evans told a sheriff's investigator that he carried out other sexual acts involving other children, including taking explicit photos and videos of him touching them, and using hidden cameras to record girls using his bathroom, the charges alleged.

Evans told the 13-year-old girl that he was "gonna pinch her bottom" but instead injected her with a drug used on people heading into surgery. He then raped her for several minutes until she awakened, according to the criminal complaint.

Oversight of ambulances in Minnesota and EMTs is governed by the state Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board.

The agency, which inspects and licenses ambulance and other emergency services every two years, also requires a storage and control policy for all narcotics, said Bob Norlen, a field services supervisor for the board. That tracking includes requiring a licensed service to document when narcotics reach their expiration date, Norlen said.

The board did not take any action against the ambulance service, he said. Efforts to reach the ambulance service by phone or e-mail were not successful Tuesday.

The board also certifies EMTs. Evans admitted to the board what he had done and surrendered his certification in March, according to the board's records.

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