

Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



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ELGIN MAN WHO FLED BEFORE TRIAL GETS 47 YEARS SEXUALLY ASSAULTING GIRL

An Elgin man who is wanted on an arrest warrant for failing to show up to court for his child sexual assault trial in January has been sentenced to prison.

Kane County Associate Judge Charles E. Petersen today sentenced 37-year-old **Mario Piñeda** to 47 years of imprisonment in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

A Kane County jury on Jan. 16, 2020, found 37-year-old **Mario Piñeda** guilty of the offenses of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child, Class X felony, 7 counts, and aggravated criminal sexual abuse, Class 2 felony, 2 counts

Kane County Assistant State's Attorneys Matt Rodgers and Lori Schmidt presented evidence that on multiple occasions in 2016 Piñeda sexually assaulted the victim. Piñeda knew the victim, who was younger than 13 years old. The victim told her parents about the assaults, and her father made a report to the police.

Piñeda had been free on \$20,000 bond. He last appeared in court for a Sept. 20, 2019, hearing. He failed to appear for a Jan. 9, 2020, hearing and Judge Petersen issued a warrant for his arrest. Anyone with information about where Piñeda might be found should call the Kane County Child Advocacy Center at (630) 208-5160.

The sentence is 42 years on the Class X felony and 5 years on the Class 2 felony, to be served consecutively.

In addition to the prison term, Piñeda must register for life as a sexual offender in accordance with the Illinois Sexual Offender Registration Act.

Kane County State's Attorney Joe McMahon said:

"This victim has showed so much bravery and strength throughout her ordeal, overcoming her fear to tell her parents about the abuse, providing important details to investigators and telling her story in court. Mr. Piñeda, on the other hand, was too much of a coward to face her. My thanks to ASAs Rodgers and Schmidt and to the Kane County Child Advocacy Center staff for their work in this case."

Mario Piñeda: Age 37 (d.o.b. 5-1-1983), of the 1-99 block of South DuBois Avenue, Elgin, Illinois. Case No. 17CF2252.