

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

June 13, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Ilijah Kates Convicted of Criminal Sexual Act in the 1st Degree and Sexual Abuse in the 1st Degree

Rochester, NY- On Friday, June 13, 2025, 25-year-old Ilijah Kates was convicted by a Monroe County jury of Criminal Sexual Act in the 1st Degree and Sexual Abuse in the 1st Degree for two incidents of sexual abuse of a 4-year-old child on or about and between July 1, 2024 and August 26, 2024.

On August 26, 2024, Rochester Police Officers arrived to a house for a report of sexual abuse of a child. Upon arrival, the parent of the child told the police officers that she witnessed the sexual abuse of her child at the hands of Ilijah Kates, before locking him out of the house and calling the police. The victim was transported to Strong Memorial Hospital, where she received treatment and a sexual assault forensic examination. On the same day, Rochester Police Officers arrested Ilijah Kates for the abuse. This case was investigated by the Special Victims Unit of the Rochester Police Department.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Sara Vanstrydonck, Chief of the Special Victims Unit.

"I cannot overstate the strength and resilience of the child who not only experienced trauma of the sexual abuse but had the fortitude to testify in open court against the man who victimized her," said Assistant District Attorney Sara Vanstrydonck. "The defendant is a sexual predator. This conviction will ensure he cannot victimize any more of our community's most vulnerable citizens, our children. I commend this survivor's strength and courage and I want to thank her mother for her unwavering support and cooperation in this investigation. I want to also thank the Rochester Police Department's Special Victims Unit, Strong Memorial Hospital and Child Protective Services for their thorough investigation. Because of their fast actions, the defendant was quickly apprehended and unable to perpetrate further abuse. I hope that today's conviction will assist this survivor in her journey to recovery."

“Ilijah Kates is a vile sexual predator who abused a defenseless child the moment he had an opportunity,” said Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley. “The defendant’s heinous actions are beyond comprehension and understanding. The courage it took for this brave young child to stand up to her abuser in court is nothing short of heroic, and I am deeply grateful to her, her mother, and the Rochester Police Department for their unwavering strength and determination in bringing this monster to justice. Ilijah Kates poses a clear and present danger to children in our community, and it is only appropriate that he face a lengthy sentence the New York State Department of Corrections. There is no place for someone like him in our community.”

Ilijah Kates is scheduled to be sentenced on July 17, in front of Monroe County Court Judge Ansaldi. He faces up to 32 years in the New York State Department of Corrections.

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