

**News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Serial Rapist Michael Chess Sentenced to 90 Years

Rochester, NY- Today, Judge Alex Renzi sentenced “Backpage Rapist” Michael Chess to a total of 90 years in prison following his conviction on five (5) counts of Rape in the 1st Degree in addition to other charges for the forcible rapes of five women during a one year period from September 2011 and September 2012. On separate occasions during that time, Chess made arrangements to meet young prostitutes that he solicited online in residential areas in Irondequoit and the City of Rochester, where he forcibly raped them.

Chess, 26, had come to be known as the “Backpage Rapist” due to his penchant for using the internet classifieds website www.backpage.com—a site often associated with illicit activities such as prostitution—as a means of identifying his victims.

The case was prosecuted for the People by Deputy Division Chief Andra Ackerman and Assistant District Attorney Leslie Schildt.

“Today’s sentence ensures that Monroe County residents will no longer have to live in fear of Michael Chess—a serial rapist who, if free, would have continued to prey upon young women in this community,” said Ackerman. “I firmly believe that other victims—victims who never came forward—exist, but I take some solace in knowing that their suffering will never befall others at the hands of this individual.”

Michael Chess, who has remained in custody since his November 2012 arrest, will begin serving his sentence immediately.

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