

# UNITED STATES V. DEAN SACCO



## Quick Facts

Sex Trafficking Investigation

Sex Offender Registration

**YES**



Faced  
**LIFE**

In Prison

Served  
**LIFE**

In Prison

## Case Summary

The following case, which took place in Norwich, New York, involves a successful life sentence conviction for a man named Dean M. Sacco who took part in the trafficking of a child under the age of 14. A mother, Linda O'Connor, sold her daughter to her landlord, Sacco, in exchange for rent owed by O'Connor to Sacco. The victim reported that Mr. Sacco repeatedly had forced sexual intercourse with her on several occasions during his trips to the victim's residence, where she lived with her mother. He would threaten and coerce the victim to commit various sexual acts and to keep their encounters a secret.

“He would threaten and coerce the victim to commit various sexual acts and to keep their encounters a secret so that her mother would not go to jail. Evidence also revealed that Sacco produced pornographic images from the sexual assaults and that the victim's mother was also involved in photographing the abuse. The victim was trafficked for a period of approximately two years, when she was between the ages of 12 and 14. After trial, a federal jury convicted Sacco of numerous charges related to commercial sexual exploitation of children and child pornography. Sacco was also convicted of sex trafficking of a child.”

## Investigation

Around the month of February in 2007, the victim disclosed to a teacher at her school that she had engaged in sexual activity with an adult. The teacher contacted the police and other authorities after the victim asked, “If someone older is having sex with someone younger, is it the younger person's fault?” Following the report, police officers conducted an extensive interview with the victim in which she provided a detailed account of her multiple sexual encounters with Dean Sacco. Following the interview, in the presence of law enforcement officers, the victim placed two separate controlled phone calls to Sacco during which he admitted to having sexual contact with the victim. Later that month, police arrested Dean Sacco on felony charges relating to his exploitation of the minor victim and he was detained without bail.

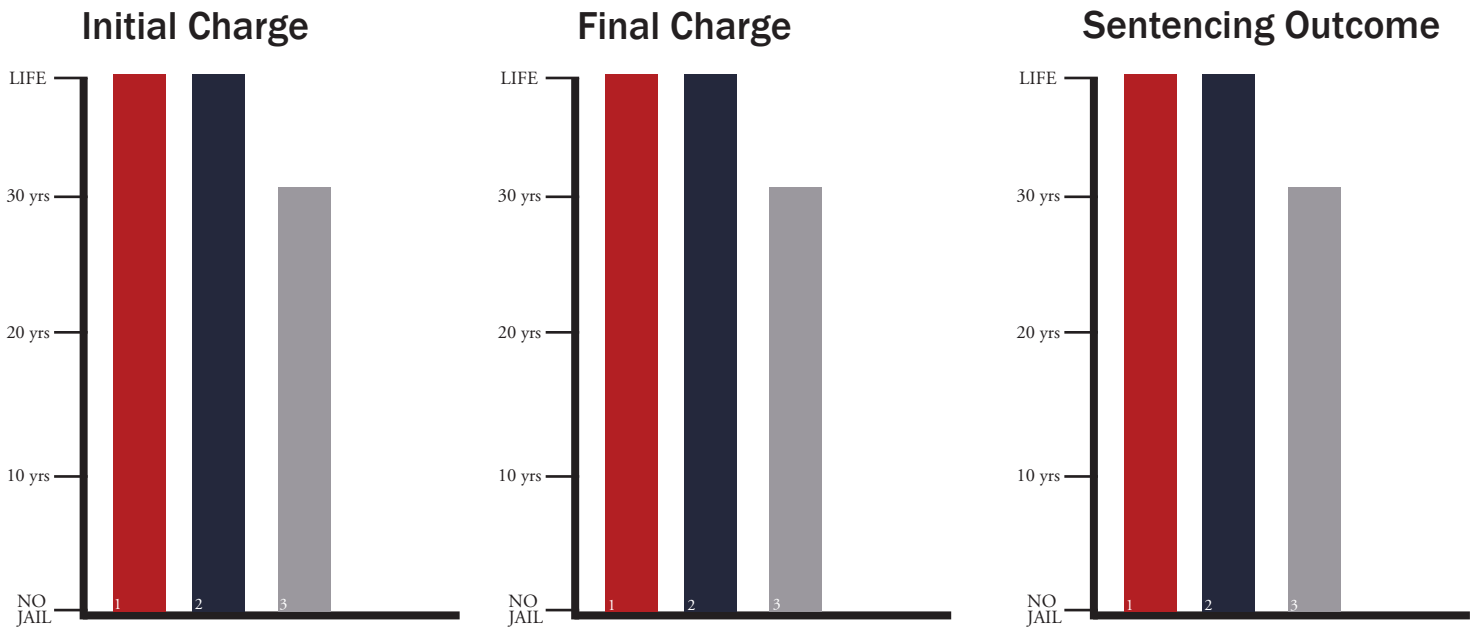
# Prosecution

On February 15, 2008, Dean Sacco was indicted by the Northern District of New York Federal Court on counts of Buying of a Child for Purposes of Producing Child Pornography, Sex Trafficking of a Child, Production of Child Pornography, Possession of Child Pornography, and Travel in Interstate Commerce with Intent to Engage in Illicit Sexual Conduct with a Minor. The case was set trial, however; days before trial was scheduled to commence Sacco's defense attorney attempted to withdraw as counsel due to a moral conflict which made him unable to effectively represent his client. The court ultimately denied this motion and his attorney proceeded to represent Sacco at trial. The government presented substantial evidence against Sacco, the testimony of 21 witnesses and 115 trial exhibits which included recorded telephone conversations, and DNA evidence on a used condom.

**“The prosecution was able to obtain and present to the jury an overwhelming amount of incriminating evidence against Sacco...”**

## Outcomes

Following the four week trial, the jury entered guilty verdicts on all counts charged against Sacco. Sacco then filed a motion for acquittal, which the court denied. Sacco was sentenced to life in prison and the court required Sacco to undergo a sex offender evaluation and treatment program if available in prison. This case serves as an example of a successful human trafficking and CSEC conviction.



Charge Category and Color Key	Initial Charge/Max Penalty	Final Charge/Max Penalty	Sentencing Outcome
<b>1</b> Trafficking	Life	Life	Life
<b>2</b> CSEC	Life	Life	Life
<b>3</b> Child Pornography	30 Years	30 Years	30 Years

