



Hancock County Sheriff's Office

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Sheriff

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PRESS RELEASE

June 23, 2020

Hancock County Sheriff Scott Bentzinger reports the conviction and sentencing of Robert L. Dowell, age 43, of Niota, IL.

Dowell plead guilty on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 to one count of Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault of a Child, a Class X Felony. Dowell was sentenced to forty-five years in the Illinois Department of Corrections with a mandatory service of eighty five percent of the sentence.

In September of 2019, an investigation was conducted by the Hancock County Sheriff's Office in cooperation with the Lee County, IA Sheriff's Office, and Des Moines County, IA Sheriff's Office which resulted in charges filed against Dowell in both Iowa and Illinois. Hancock County State's Attorney Rachel Mast prosecuted the case in Illinois.

Dowell is currently serving a sentence in the Iowa Department of Corrections in relation to this same investigation.

