

Pimp gets maximum sentence for human trafficking

By Sarah Cassi | For lehighvalleylive.com

on March 07, 2016 at 3:19 PM, updated March 07, 2016 at 3:58 PM

A human trafficker who forced three women to prostitute themselves in [Allentown](#) is now facing decades behind bars, in one of the first sentences handed down under Pennsylvania's human trafficking law.

In recorded phone interviews from Lehigh County Jail, Issac Pearson spoke about the women in his "stable" and in his "palace," Judge Maria Dantos said on Monday.

"We'll send you to a different palace now," the judge said, before sentencing Pearson to 17 to 34 years in state prison, the maximum sentence allowed in the case.

Pearson again on Monday claimed he was innocent of the charges -- "I would never subject anyone to that -- and that he cared for the women. Dantos replied that if that's how Pearson cares for somebody, "then God help us all."

Addressing the lone victim who testified at Pearson's trial, Dantos said, "You were seen, heard and believed."

"You are strong ... you do not belong to him. Not as a person, not as a victim," Dantos said. "The future -- your future -- is yours."

The young woman read a poem in court that she wrote, describing how Pearson lured her via a "loving" relationship, only to later use drugs to create a "cycle of dependency."

"It is never OK to profit off of someone else's vulnerability," she said.

The 35-year-old Pearson was convicted of human trafficking and related charges, following his trial last month where he represented himself.

"He's going to be where he belongs -- behind concrete and bars," said Deputy District Attorney Robert Schopf.

Schopf said Pearson sold the women for sex, "seven days a week, man after man." The victim who testified at Pearson's trial was prostituted over a period of four months, Schopf said.

The prosecutor said Pearson's sentence was one of the first in the state under the revised [state law on human trafficking](#). The changes were signed into law in 2014.

In February 2015, Allentown police set up a sting at the Royale Motel, 1117 N. Irving St., after viewing ads on backpage.com. Officers arrested two women after the pair agreed to have sex with an undercover officer for \$200, police said.

The women reported a man named "Buddy," later identified as Pearson, took their photos, set up the ads on backpage.com, forced them into sex work and then took the money they earned, police said.

One of the women said Pearson sexually and physically assaulted her when she "disobeyed" him, police said.

Pearson was then arrested in March 2015 following a sting at the [Rodeway Inn](#), 2115 Downeyflake Lane.

In that case, a woman met the undercover officer at a room in the motel, and agreed to have sex and perform a sex act for \$80, police said.

After the woman was detained by officers, she told them she was required to give the money she earned to her pimp, "J," later identified as Pearson, police said.



'Violent' pimp arrested at Allentown motel, records say

Issac Pearson, 33, of Allentown, has been violent with 'numerous' prostitutes and is a threat to their safety, according to court records.

Dantos noted that the probation officer who interviewed Pearson for the presentence report said he suffered from "narcissistic delusions."

Schopf called it textbook sociopathy, that Pearson was devoid of empathy and only thought of himself.

Pearson had the nerve "to ply women with drugs, sell them for sex, and then step back and say, 'I'm the victim,'" Schopf said.

In addition to his previous 13 arrests and eight convictions, Pearson racked up four misconducts while in county jail, Schopf said. The misconducts were for having a sharpened spoon and tobacco in his cell; written evidence of involvement with the Crips gang and calling a female corrections officer "baby" and making demands of staff, the prosecutor said.

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