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Departmental and Other Notices

EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
[CRIMINAL]

CASE NO. DOMHCR2014/0025

Between:

The State

and

Sullivan Marcelle

Appearances:

Ms. Evelina E-M. Baptiste for the State
Mr. Geoffrey Letang for the Defendant

2015: March 13

JUDGMENT ON SENTENCING

- [1] THOMAS, J. [Ag.]: The prisoner, Sullivan Marcelle, on the 19 February 2015, pleaded guilty to the charge of indecent assault, contrary to the provisions of section 13 (1) (a) of the Sexual Offences Act No. 1 of 1998.
- [2] The charge to which the prisoner pleaded guilty is that on 14th June 2013, at Dublanc, in the parish of St. Peter, in the Commonwealth of Dominica, he did indecently assault Kellis Vidal a girl who is not

his spouse and who is under the age of fourteen years, to wit, nine years and nine months.

- [3] In the usual manner a Social Inquiry Report was ordered which was prepared by Mrs. Delia Giddings-Stedman. The report examined the prisoner's family background, home, education and a number of interviews with family members on both sides and also persons in the community. And without exception persons interviewed condemned the prisoner's action in very strong terms.
- [4] In her general assessment this Probation Officer sought to draw the court's attention to the prisoner's sentiments, family history and sentiments, the sentiments of the victim's mother, the victim's sentiments and the sentiments of the public at large.
- [5] The Probation Officer's conclusion reads thus:

"CONCLUSION

In summary, Sullivan Marcelle has pleaded guilty to having indecently assaulted a minor. It is important to note that a range of factors can influence the impact that indecent assault can have on the victim, to include, the victim's relationship with the abuser, the extent and severity of any accompanying psychological or physical abuse and the negative responses of friends of the victim. The victim in this case has indicated that the incident has caused her