

N.Y., Utica - 1/11/2012

**Videotaped interview with defendant played during
CO's sexual abuse trial (by WKTV)**

Perhaps as damning as the testimony from the two young victims, age 10 and 12, were the words coming out of the 50-year-old defendant's own mouth, in a videotaped interview with state police investigators.

Former long-time local **correction officer** Donald Hughes, of Floyd, faces sexual abuse charges regarding the two girls, whose lives he's been in since birth and who knew him as, "Poppy."

Day Three of Hughes' trial took place in Oneida County Court in Utica on Wednesday. The girls took the stand on Tuesday, one testifying that Hughes touched her chest both over and under her shirt; the other, describing in detail how she claims Hughes made her touch his penis.

On Wednesday, jurors saw a videotaped interview between defendant Hughes and an investigator from the Child Advocacy Center in Utica and Hughes and a state police investigator. In it, Hughes admits guiding the 10-year-old's hands down his pants.

Hughes cried during parts of the videotaped interview. The mother of one of the alleged victims rocked back and forth and cried while Hughes described placing the child's hands in his pants. Hughes and his attorney will hear all of the prosecution witnesses before deciding whether or not Hughes will testify on his own behalf.