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Court Upholds Sapienza's 35Year Sex Term
(By North Country Gazette)

The Appellate Division of State Supreme Court has rejected the contention of former pizzeria owner Anthony C. Sapienza that the 35-year prison sentence imposed on him by Warren County Court Judge John S. Hall for sexually assaulting two girls is harsh and excessive.

Last July, Sapienza's conviction had been held by the appeals court but in a 4-0 decision, found that Hall had imposed illegal sentences on certain counts. The court vacated the sentences on 12 counts and remitted the matter for resentencing. But when Sapienza, 44, was resentenced, Hall imposed even longer sentences than he did the first time.

Sapienza, former owner of Sapienza's Pizzeria and Restaurant on Route 9, was found guilty following jury trial in January 2009 13 felonies and four misdemeanors for repeated sexual encounters with 14-and 16-year-old girls including sex acts which occurred at the restaurant.

Sapienza was represented at trial by the Warren County Public Defender's office and maintained that he was the victim in the case, that the girls and police had lied and concocted the allegations against him. He continued to maintain his innocence throughout the trial, boisterously on several occasions prompting the judge to threaten to remove him from the courtroom.