

PAULETTE DALE GUILTY IN RAPE OF HER DAUGHTER BY FRIEND

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Paulette Dale , who said it was nice to have Samuel Gladden around the house to help with chores, was convicted Tuesday **of** first-degree criminal sexual conduct for enabling Gladden to **rape her** retarded 12-year-old **daughter** .

Detroit Recorder's Court Judge Michael Talbot, who heard the case without a jury, said **Dale** participated **in** the **rapes by** letting Gladden into **her** home, letting him sleep with **her daughter** and failing to stop the attacks once she became aware **of** them.

"There is almost silent unison between the mother and the actual rapist **of her** child," Talbot ruled after the one-day trial.

Legal scholars believe the trial marks the first time a mother has been convicted **of rape** without taking a physical role **in** the assaults.

Assistant prosecutor Kelly Ramsey said **Dale** , 37, allowed Gladden to remain **in** the house for a month after the **rapes** began.

"How could this crime have occurred without the assistance **of Paulette Dale** ?" Ramsey asked.

Dale , **of** Detroit, faces up to life **in** prison at **her** Feb. 23 sentencing. Gladden, 41, pleaded **guilty** last week to first- degree criminal sexual conduct **in** exchange for a recommended 20-to-40-year prison term.

Defense lawyer Jay Nolan argued that **Dale** had only "a vague perception" **of** what she could do to stop Gladden.

Testifying **in her** own defense, **Dale** said she gave Gladden **her daughter** 's room when he moved into **her** house **in** August. She said the child was supposed to sleep with **her** , but the girl would "slide out **of** my bed every night" to join Gladden.

She said she once confronted Gladden and that he "got kind **of** mad and took himself a walk."

But, she said, she let him return and resume the sleeping arrangements.

The girl testified at an earlier hearing that Gladden forced himself on **her** and that **her** mother told **her** to shut up when she mentioned the assaults. She also said Gladden and **her** mother smoked "white dope" and that Gladden forced **her** to smoke the drug, too.

The child, now 13, was unable to testify at the trial because she has regressed to a mental age **of** 2 since the attacks, according to medical authorities.

Despite the **rapes** , **Dale** said "it was nice" having Gladden around because he helped take out the trash, fixed a leaky sink and begged money for them.

He also watched **her daughter** and son. "I needed some time for myself and get away from the kids," **Dale** said.

Dale , whose children were taken from **her in** 1980 because **of** physical and sexual abuse **by** another boyfriend, testified she underwent special parenting classes and eventually became a peer counselor **in** the program.

After the verdict, Ramsey said any legal victory was tempered **by** the child's plight.

" **Paulette Dale** destroyed **her daughter** ," Ramsey said. The child's mental collapse "is the high price she's paid for **her** mother's actions."

Caption: Photo RICHARD LEE

: **PauletteDale** wipes away tears before court proceedings start Tuesday. She was convicted **of** first-degree criminal sexual conduct.

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