

# ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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**Theodore F. L. Housel**  
Prosecutor

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## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release  
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2 Page(s)

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MAYS LANDING – A Pleasantville man was sentenced Friday to seven years in prison for a June 3, 2008, attack on a woman in her Northfield home, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated.

Francis Cruz entered a guilty plea Nov. 5, 2008, to one count of aggravated sexual assault. In accordance with the plea agreement the defendant, sentenced by Superior Court Judge Bernard E. DeLury, must serve 85 percent of the prison term before parole eligibility. Cruz is subject to Megan's Law, which applies not only to sexual assaults involving minors, but also to other sexual crimes specified in the Megan's Law statute. The defendant is also subject to parole supervision for life and a Nicole's Law restraining order, which would prohibit the defendant from having contact with the victim for life, Assistant Prosecutor Danielle Buckley said.

Cruz and the 39-year-old victim, who were acquaintances, were discussing yard work he was supposed to do at her home when the defendant made sexual advances toward her. When she rebuffed him, he became enraged. He physically attacked her, produced a knife and then sexually assaulted her, Buckley stated.

Prior to Judge DeLury imposing the sentence, Buckley read a statement that had been written by the victim describing the impact of the crime including the fact that she has had trust issues ever since.

Cruz, who spoke through a court-appointed Spanish-speaking interpreter, apologized for his actions, Buckley said.

Immediately after the assault the victim drove to the Northfield Police Department to report the incident. Pleasantville police officers arrested Cruz at 8:32 p.m. on June 3, 2008, outside of his residence, Buckley said. He remained in the Atlantic County Justice Facility pending further proceedings.

**Anyone with information involving serious crimes is asked to call the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office at 609-909-7800 or go to the Prosecutor's Office Web site at <http://www.acpo.org/tips.html> and provide information by filling out the form anonymously on the Submit a Tip page. People can also call Crime Stoppers at 609-652-1234 or 1-800-658-8477 (TIPS). Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and indictment of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.**