

# Mark Lyon: behind bars for sex crimes

**NZ Newswire**

Mark Lyon's life was once a blur of extravagant parties, drugs and luxury cars.

Now the heir to the Goodman Fielder Wattie empire will spend years behind bars after using his money and sense of entitlement to prey on vulnerable girls and women.

Name suppression has lapsed for Lyon, who was sentenced in December in Auckland District Court to 15 years in prison with eight years' minimum non-parole period after being found guilty on a raft of sexual violation, prostitution, drug and firearm charges.

The former property developer and company owner used his Artizanz Apartment building in Eden Terrace as a base to force women addicted to methamphetamine to perform sex acts.

In one incident, Lyon, who's now in his late 50s, ordered his associates to kidnap a female friend and bring her to the building where she was stripped, shackled, punched and locked in the basement.

He then forced her to perform oral sex on him for so long she begged him to rape her to get it over with.

"But he degraded her further by telling her she looked beautiful when she cried," crown lawyer Joanna Murdoch said at his sentencing.

Judge Russell Collins said at sentencing the attack was life-changing: "Anyone who heard that testimony will never forget it."

Lyon also solicited sex with underage girls - aged 14 and 15 - in exchange for methamphetamine.

When one 15-year-old girl got methamphetamine for free without performing sexual favours, he grew frustrated and forced her to give him oral sex.

"You took what you believed you were entitled to. You took advantage of her age, her need for methamphetamine and her availability to you in that apartment," Judge Collins said.

"You play on addiction to methamphetamine... for your own desire of sexual gratification."

The girls had been seriously affected by the offending and the crimes had left good families feeling they had failed their children, he said.

Lyon was also sentenced on two charges of unlawful possession of a pistol and one charge of possessing an airgun which was a restricted weapon after pleading guilty to the charges.

The son of businessman Cliff Lyon, Lyon made his first \$5 million by the time he was 25. But his descent into crime began over a decade ago when he fell in with gangs and became addicted to methamphetamine.

Since then he's made numerous court appearances, and has previously been convicted on drugs and firearms charges.

<http://www.msn.com/en-nz/news/national/mark-lyon-behind-bars-for-sex-crimes/ar-AA9kXY5>