



NEWS RELEASE  
GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
DAN PATTERSON

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Contact: Rhonda Ogden, Office Manager – (417) 868-4061  
1010 Boonville  
Springfield, MO 65802

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**MAN CHASING WIFE SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR COURTHOUSE STABBING**

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Caleb Wiles, 36, of Joplin, Missouri, pleaded guilty to stabbing another man in the parking lot of the Greene County courthouse in 2020 was sentenced to eight years in prison Friday afternoon. Wiles was sentenced to five years for the Class B felony of first-degree assault and three years for the unclassified felony of armed criminal action with the sentences to be served consecutively.

At the sentencing hearing in Springfield, Greene County Circuit Judge Jerry Harmison said he was persuaded, in part, to not give a maximum sentence in this case because Wiles had no real criminal history before the incident. “For lack of a better term, I think you are salvageable,” Harmison said to Wiles. Harmison said the sentencing decision was especially difficult because he understands both the prosecutor’s and the defense attorney’s arguments. “It could have been very serious,” the judge said. “It could have resulted in another human’s death. [...] At the end of the day, there was no serious injury.”

At Wiles’ sentencing, Greene County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Conor Browne played a 911 call Wiles made just seconds the assault started. Wiles placed the call as he was driving south on Boonville Avenue, chasing his then-wife, who was in a vehicle driven by the stabbing victim. Wiles told the 911 operator he needed to speak with police because, “I’m about to kill a guy.” A commotion and yelling can then be heard on the recording, including Wiles saying something about, “stealing my wife.” The victim can be heard saying, “You stabbed me.”

Assistant Prosecutor Browne also played a video from the Greene County Judicial Court Facility’s security cameras that show a silver car pulling into the parking lot and parking by the courthouse’s main entrance. Wiles’ black car followed close behind the

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silver car and parked next to it. People can be seen exiting the vehicles and getting into a physical struggle. Once in the parking lot, Wiles wife got out of the car and pounded on the courthouse door. Caleb Wiles got out of his car. The victim told investigators that he believed Caleb Wiles would assault Wiles' wife, so the victim approached Caleb Wiles and tried to calm him. At that point, Caleb Wiles pulled a knife with an 8-inch blade out of his coat and stabbed the victim in the arm.

Police officers soon arrived on the scene. Caleb Wiles did not immediately comply with commands, and so police officers used a TASER to subdue him.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Conor Browne. It was investigated by the Greene County Sheriff's Office and Detective Daniel Zacek Smith was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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