



NEWS RELEASE
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Jury Finds ‘Serial Child Molester’ Guilty of Abusing Six Young Girls

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Edward Martinez, 53, of Waynesville, Missouri was convicted on September 27, 2024, by a Greene County Jury of sexually six young girls when they were ages 4 to 11. The jury took less than two hours to find the defendant guilty of sexually abusing six girls, all under the age of 12. Martinez was convicted of 20 felony charges, including numerous counts of first- and second-degree child molestation, first-degree attempted statutory rape, first-degree statutory sodomy, first-degree statutory rape and sexual misconduct.

The case against Martinez spans 25 years — from 1996 to 2021. Each victim was younger than 12 when the incidents occurred, with the youngest being 4. The victims usually were the children of his significant others or his close friends — or the young friends of those children. The evidence showed that Martinez was a manipulative predator who groomed the girls and their families with gifts and financial support in order to have access to the young girls. Martinez denied he sexually abused any of the six girls. Instead, Martinez and his attorney argued the girls made up the allegations, in part because they knew Martinez stood trial for similar crimes back in the 1990s — but he was found not guilty.

The jury also considered sentencing and about 30 minutes of further deliberation, recommended he receive the maximum on all counts including nine life sentences.

The jury trial was presided over by The Honorable T. Myers. Judge Myers set a sentencing hearing for January 8, 2025 at 8:30 am following a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v.
Martinez, 2231-CR00092-01

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Elizabeth Kieseletter Fax and Megan Vincent. It was investigated by the Republic Police Department and Detective James Stephenson was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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