



NEWS RELEASE  
GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
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04/12/2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JURY FINDS MAN GUILTY ON ALL COUNTS FOR SEXUAL ENCOUNTER WITH  
8 YEAR OLD GIRL

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Austin Tyler Gray, 26, of Springfield, Missouri was convicted on April 6, 2021, by a Greene County Jury for using candy to entice his girlfriend's eight year old daughter to take her clothes off and then having sex with her.

Gray was found guilty of one count each of statutory rape first degree, enticement of a child, and child molestation second degree. The jury deliberated for approximately four hours before returning its verdict.

The jury trial was presided over by The Honorable Becky Borthwick. The defendant is subject to a sentence of ten to thirty years or life for statutory rape, five to thirty years for enticement of a child, and five to fifteen years for child molestation. Judge Borthwick set a sentencing hearing for June 24, 2021 at 2:00 PM following a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole.

**This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Dane Rennie and Jenna Homeyer. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective Thomas Hicks was the lead investigator assigned to the case.**

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