



NEWS RELEASE  
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01/31/2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jury Convicts Man for Harassing Messages to His Probation Officer

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Joshua S. Collins, 39, of Springfield, Missouri, was convicted Thursday, 01/30/2020, by a Greene County Jury of the sending harassing messages to his probation officer.

Collins was found guilty of Tampering with a Judicial Officer and Harassment Second Degree. The jury deliberated for an hour and twenty minutes before returning its verdict. The Defendant sent Facebook messages as well as a voicemail to his probation officer making accusations that her children were engaging in drug and sex related crimes, that he had hired a private investigator to look into her and her family, and that he was going to turn over the information he had to a Greene County Judge. The Defendant was on probation at the time for Domestic Assault 4<sup>th</sup> Degree, 3<sup>rd</sup> or Subsequent Offense. The probation officer was scared for her family based on defendant's statements and prior offenses. She said in her career as a probation officer no one she has supervised has ever threatened her directly, found her on Facebook, or involved her family.

The jury trial was presided over by The Honorable Thomas Mountjoy. The defendant was sentenced by the jury to two years in the Missouri Department of Corrections and one year in the Greene County Jail. Judge Mountjoy set a post-trial motion hearing date for February 14, 2020 at 2:15 p.m.

**This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Dane Rennie and Elizabeth Kiesewetter Fax. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective David Hatch was the lead investigator assigned to the case. ###**