



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jordan Bush Convicted of 16 Counts in Domestic Violence Case

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Jordan Bush, 26, of Fayette, Missouri, was convicted Wednesday by a Greene County Jury of one count of second-degree domestic assault, eight counts of third-degree domestic assault, three counts of fourth-degree domestic assault, one count of second-degree burglary, one count of first-degree property damage, one count of first-degree harassment, and one count of attempt to tamper with a victim in a felony prosecution following a three-day trial before the Honorable Mark A. Powell.

The defendant was convicted for subjecting his girlfriend to repeated abuse and harassment that occurred on three different incidents. On March 17, 2019, the defendant choked the victim, whipped her multiple times with a cell phone cord, cut her with scissors, slapped her, struck her, threw a drink on her, and took her cell phone from her so that she could not call the police for help. The defendant exhibited other abusive behaviors during this altercation by pouring bleach on the victim's carpet and threatening to harm her dog. A neighbor had to call the police for the victim, and the police officer who responded observed multiple injuries on the victim.

In relation to the choking, the police officer only observed very small red marks on both sides of the victim's neck. At trial, a domestic violence detective testified that slight markings on a victim's neck is consistent with being choked, and it is very common for a choking victim to have no visible injuries immediately after being choked. The detective explained this is because it takes very little force to restrict someone's breathing and to cut off the blood flow to someone's brain. The detective further explained that choking is just a squeeze, while significant bruising and redness usually occurs when more force is involved. In addition to the testimony from law enforcement, the victim explained that when the defendant was choking her, she had difficulty

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breathing, she was gasping for air, and her vision became blurry. She stated that in the days following the incident, her neck was sore and her voice was raspy as a result of being choked.

In the second incident, the defendant assaulted the victim again by throwing heavy objects at her. When the victim tried to run out the front door, the defendant grabbed her by the hair and pulled her to the ground. Again, the defendant took the victim's cell phone so she could not call the police and blocked the front door so she could not get away. Ultimately, the victim had to jump off the balcony of her second-floor apartment to get away from the defendant. From there, she drove to a nearby gas station where she was able to call police. The police officer who responded to the call observed injuries on the victim that were consistent with what she said happened.

The State filed criminal charges against the defendant for these two incidents, and the defendant was ordered not to be at the victim's residence and to have no contact with the victim. However, the defendant showed up at the victim's apartment on May 31, 2019, and asked her to go to the police to drop the charges. At trial, the victim testified that she had trouble leaving the defendant because she was scared of what might happen once she left and stopped communicating. On May 31, though, she decided she had enough. The victim told the defendant she would go to the police to drop the charges, but she testified that she really intended to turn the defendant in because she knew he had an active warrant.

The victim utilized the important services of the Greene County Family Justice Center where she was able to report to police that the defendant was at her apartment. Police went to her apartment, but the defendant could not be found. The victim did not return to her apartment because she knew the defendant would be able to find her there. For the next couple of days the victim stayed with a friend and refused to communicate with the defendant. During those two days, the defendant sent the victim hundreds of text messages and called her hundreds of times. The defendant also broke into the victim's apartment where he poured bleach on the carpet, her furniture, and her clothing, causing thousands of dollars in property damage. As a result of the defendant's conduct, the victim was evicted from her apartment and had to pay for much of the damage.

During closing arguments, the State explained to the jury that the defendant in this case was trying to exhibit power and control over the victim and would do what he could to manipulate her over and over. This case shows how complicated the dynamics of domestic violence can be and that once the victim was in a place where the defendant could not physically abuse her, he decided to destroy her property.

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Bush was found guilty of all 16 counts as charged by the State in the felony information. The jury deliberated for about an hour and a half before returning its verdict. The defendant is subject to a maximum sentence of seven years in the department of corrections for each of the second-degree domestic assault, second-degree burglary, and attempt to tamper with a victim convictions. The defendant is not eligible for parole on the attempted victim tampering conviction. The defendant is subject to a maximum sentence of four years for each conviction of third-degree domestic assault, first-degree property damage, and first-degree harassment. For each of the fourth-degree domestic assault convictions, the defendant faces a maximum sentence of one year. Judge Powell set a sentencing hearing for March 31, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. following a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Amanda N. Johnson and Sarah Donelan. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective Gower Anderson was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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