



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAN FOUND GUILTY OF STATUTORY SODOMY OF 5 YEAR OLD NEIGHBOR

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Stephen Perry, 61, of Springfield, Missouri was convicted today by a Greene County Jury of touching the genitals of a five year old girl that lived next door.

Perry was found guilty of one count of statutory sodomy first degree for events that took place on March 29, 2018. The jury deliberated for 45 minutes before returning its verdict. The defendant had been accused of similar conduct in 2008 for a different neighbor who was six years old at the time. The State alleged and proved the prior conduct to enhance the Defendant's sentence.

The jury trial was presided over by The Honorable Thomas Mountjoy. The defendant is subject to a life sentence as he was charged as a predatory offender for his prior conduct from 2008. Judge Mountjoy set a sentencing hearing for July 16, 2021 at 2:45 p.m. following a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole.

Greene County Prosecutor Dan Patterson wishes to take this opportunity to remind the community that instances of child sexual abuse very rarely involve strangers and it is far more common to involve family or family friends. It is important to believe our children when they disclose abuse and promptly report to local law enforcement and the child abuse hotline (1-800-392-3738).

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Dane Rennier and Mel Myears. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective Chelsea Taylor was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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