



NEWS RELEASE

GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

DAN PATTERSON

Contact: Rhonda Ogden, Office Manager – (417) 868-4061
1010 Boonville
Springfield, MO 65802

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Man Sentenced to Five Years for Sexually Abusing 14 year old Step-Daughter

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Jimmy R. Scott Jr., 50, of Springfield, Missouri, was sentenced yesterday by The Honorable Calvin Holden to two concurrent five year sentences in the Department of Corrections for sexually abusing his fourteen year old step-daughter over the period of a year. First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Nathan Chapman argued that the defendant should receive consecutive sentences for a total of ten years due to the aggravating circumstances of: the length of the abuse, the age differences, the position of the defendant in the family, and the fact that the sex acts were not consensual. According to the Missouri Department of Corrections the average sentence for one count of this offense for fiscal years 2009 to 2015 was 5.7 years. The sentence came after a two day bench trial before The Honorable Calvin Holden held March 21, 2016, in which the judge found the defendant guilty of statutory rape in the second degree and statutory sodomy in the second degree. Each offense had a maximum punishment of up to seven years in the Department of Corrections.

The victim testified at trial that the abuse began in August of 2010 when she was 14 years old. At that time, the victim lived with the defendant, then 44, her mother, and three sisters. The evidence established that the defendant worked a night shift and would return home around four in the morning. The defendant would go into the victim's room a few times a week over the course of a year and sexually abuse her. The victim testified that she would "freeze" and pretend she was asleep. The abuse was reported to police on August 19, 2011.

Lieutenant Eric Reece with the Springfield Police Department was the lead investigator. The victim was interviewed and examined by a nurse practitioner at the Child Advocacy Center. The medical findings were consistent with penetrating trauma.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Scott, 1131-CR07949-01

The victim's sisters were also interviewed. One sister disclosed that the defendant used light from a cell phone to see her naked under her sheets while she slept. Another sister stated that the defendant would watch her while she was undressing and told her that he "wished she was older." Lieutenant Reece also searched the family's home and collected the victim's bed sheets. Those sheets were later sent to the Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Lab for DNA testing. One of the victim's sheets had a semen stain that contained the Defendant's DNA.

During the March 2016 bench trial the victim's mother and three sisters testified on behalf of the Defendant. All four family members testified that the victim had a reputation for being untruthful. When two of the sisters were confronted with their 2011 disclosures of Defendant's inappropriate behavior, both stated they did not remember making the prior recorded statements.

Upon his release from prison Mr. Scott will be required to register as a sex offender.

This case was prosecuted by First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Nathan Chapman. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective Eric Reece was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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