



NEWS RELEASE

GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

DAN PATTERSON

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Former Coach Sentenced to 120 Day Program For Deviate Sexual Assault of a Student

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Ronnie White, 69, of Springfield, MO was sentenced yesterday, August 22, 2016, for deviate sexual assault in the 1<sup>st</sup> degree. The charges stem from events which occurred from 1991 through 1993. During this time, the victim was a student at Parkview High School when the defendant used his position as a coach to coerce her into a sexual relationship. This abuse lasted for approximately two years until the defendant was transferred to a different school. The crime was charged in 2015 after the victim came forward and notified law enforcement of what occurred when she was a freshman and sophomore. During the investigation, the victim contacted the defendant on the phone and the defendant apologized for what he had done. The defendant entered a guilty plea on May 17, 2016.

At sentencing, the State requested that the defendant be sentenced to serve seven years in prison, the maximum for this offense. The defense requested probation. The Honorable Calvin Holden sentenced the defendant to seven years but placed the defendant into the 120 day Sexual Offender Assessment Unit program. If the defendant successfully completes the SOAU program, he will be released from the Department of Corrections and placed on supervision within the community for five years.

**This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Nathan Chapman. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Dept. and Detective Chelsea Taylor was the lead investigator assigned to the case.**

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