



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Judge Finds Man Forfeits Right to Confrontation

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that the Honorable Judge Jason Brown found that there was probable cause for Felix Seals, 31, to go to trial on charges of domestic assault in the second degree and victim tampering.

The domestic assault charges occurred in February and March of 2013 against the defendant's girlfriend. The State charged the defendant with two counts of domestic assault in the second degree and one count of victim tampering in July 2013. Previous to the preliminary hearing, the defendant was held in lieu of \$25,000 bond. While he was in custody, the defendant made several phone calls to his girlfriend and the alleged victim encouraging her to cooperate with the prosecution, threatening her and instructing her with how to get the charges against him dropped. The State alleges that these calls form the basis for the victim tampering charge.

A preliminary hearing was held January 22, 2014 in which the victim was not present. The State filed a motion to allow the statements of the victim to be presented through other witnesses, despite her absence, citing allegations that the defendant had procured her absence from court. Judge Brown heard the numerous jail phone calls between the defendant and the alleged victim in which the defendant was allegedly demanding that the victim not cooperate. The Judge sustained the State's motion, finding the evidence "overwhelming" that the defendant participated in preventing the victim from appearing and admitted all of her out-of-court statements in at the preliminary hearing.

After hearing evidence of the victim's statements to law enforcement as well as other testimony regarding the alleged domestic assaults and victim tampering, the

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Judge found that there was sufficient probable cause for the defendant to face trial on all three charges.

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