



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jury Finds Man Guilty of Kidnapping his Wife

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Jeremy Whelan, 33, was convicted today by a Greene County Jury of holding his wife against her will in Springfield after driving to her residence in Arkansas and threatening to shoot her if she didn't go back to Springfield with him. The jury deliberated for 3 hours and forty-five minutes before returning its verdict. The jury deliberated for another hour before sentencing the defendant to a seven year sentence on count one, and a one year sentence on count two, both maximum sentences allowed by law.

Whelan was found guilty of one count kidnapping in the second degree and one count violation of order of protection for events from September 2017. The defendant's wife left him in August of 2017 because defendant had been abusive. In September, in a desperate attempt to reconcile their marriage, the defendant drove to his wife's residence in Arkansas and threatened to shoot her and then himself if she didn't come with him. The gun the defendant had was in fact a pellet pistol, but he did not tell his wife that until they were in Springfield. Once in Springfield the defendant destroyed their cell phones to ensure the police could not track them. The defendant rented different hotel rooms during the three days his wife was held against her will. When the defendant took his wife to her attorney's office to have her drop the order of protection, the police were called and the defendant was arrested.

The jury trial was presided over by The Honorable David Jones. Judge Jones set a sentencing hearing for August 3, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. following a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Whelan, 1731-CR05934-01

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Dane Rennie and Elizabeth Kiesewetter Fax. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective Ethan Ramsey was the lead investigator assigned to the case.