



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sentence Sends Strong Message to those Who Financially Exploit the Elderly

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Howard Edward Roberts, of Louisville, Kentucky was sentenced today by Judge David Jones to twenty years in the department of corrections for exploiting an elderly victim of over \$250,000.00. The sentencing follows Roberts's conviction in February by a Greene County jury. Roberts took no responsibility for his actions and showed no remorse. Instead, he blamed the victim's family for coming between him and the victim.

Roberts made contact with the victim, who was in her mid-seventies and widowed, in November of 2013 and had moved in to her home in Springfield by January of 2014. After discontinuing the victim's home healthcare services and moving his ex-wife in as her caregiver, Roberts convinced the victim that his business, Maximum Performance, Inc., was an up-and-coming supplement supplier that just needed investments. Roberts misrepresented to the victim that her investment of \$250,000 was secured by stock in the company. The victim believed she was the sole investor and co-owner of the company despite the stock purchase agreement being fraudulent and worthless. Roberts further convinced the victim to purchase multiple vehicles and equipment for him and the company ranging in price from \$2500 to \$43,000. It is estimated that in total, Roberts received upwards of \$333,000 from the victim.

Witnesses at trial testified as to the changes in the victim's demeanor and behavior following Roberts moving in and taking control of her lifestyle along with the validity of the stock agreement and Roberts' failure to disclose material parts of the business and a federal bankruptcy.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Roberts, 1631-CR01700-01

The Greene County Prosecutor's office encourages all citizens to be mindful and observant of individuals who may be reliant on others for day-to-day care. While all persons, of any age, may fall victim to scam artists, it is through the watchful eyes of friends, family, and home healthcare workers that exploitation can be prevented to our most vulnerable citizens.

The sentencing was prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Ashley Twibell. The case was investigated by Detective Lee Walker with the Springfield Police Department, and Troy Cebulak with the Securities Division of the Office of the Missouri Secretary of State.

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