



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAN SENTENCED TO FOURTEEN YEARS IN PRISON
FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Joseph Michael Miller, 40, of Springfield, Missouri was sentenced today to fourteen years in prison for his convictions for sodomy in the second degree and assault in the second degree. The defendant was convicted of those offenses following a four day jury trial in December 2018.

At trial, the victim testified she met the defendant after she had been kicked out of her home by her mother. The defendant, who she had never met and lived across the street, offered to let her store her belongings at his house. After the victim's mother let the victim move back home, she met the defendant to retrieve her belongings. The victim testified that she and the defendant flirted and that she thought the evening would turn into a "one-night" stand situation. She also admitted that she had done methamphetamine and marijuana with the defendant before the incident occurred. The victim testified that she had initially engaged in sexual activity consensually, but the defendant got rough and she told him to "stop" and that "it hurt". When that happened, the victim testified that the defendant then engaged in rougher sex acts without her permission. She described feeling immediate pain and telling the defendant again to "stop" and that "it hurt". The victim tried to get away by grabbing the mattress and pulling herself away from the defendant but he was using his body weight and arms to hold her back. The victim discovered she was bleeding heavily and went back to her mother's house. When she got home, she passed out and was transported to the hospital. Several medical personnel from Mercy Hospital testified at trial and noted that the victim had significant blood loss, low blood pressure, tachycardia, bruising to her legs and lower back, and a four to five centimeter laceration to her vagina. The victim required stabilization and surgery to stop the bleeding.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Miller, 1831-CR01361-01

The State requested seven years for the defendant's conviction for sodomy in the second degree and seven years for the defendant's conviction for assault in the second degree, the maximum sentence for each count. The State asked for the sentence in each count to run consecutive to each other. During sentencing, the State noted that the defendant had committed a violent sexual assault resulting in a horrific injury to the victim, the impact on the victim of the crime and the trauma associated with having to testify repeatedly, the defendant's lack of remorse, and the defendant's extensive criminal history which included multiple felony convictions and that the defendant was on supervised release following a federal conviction for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Specifically the State highlighted several statements in the sentencing assessment report, where the defendant stated that he was going to sue everyone involved in the case, that he was owed \$1500 for every day he was in jail, and that, when asked to describe the victim, the defendant described himself.

The defendant spoke on his own behalf and continued to deny that he had done anything wrong and asked for one year in jail for his sentence. Judge Carrier rejected his argument, noting that the defendant had an extensive criminal history and had, over the years, received increasingly longer sentences and yet continued to commit crimes, that the defendant had not shown any remorse at all or any recognition that the victim had been harmed during his crimes, and that the jury had chosen to find him guilty to two separate offenses. Judge Carrier adopted the State's recommendation, sentencing the defendant to fourteen years in the Missouri Department of Corrections and further ran those sentences consecutively to any other sentences that the defendant may be serving.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Stephanie Wan and Paul Rebar. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective Ethan Ramsey was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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