



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Man Sentenced to Life Imprisonment for Sexually Abusing Granddaughters

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Brett Sanders, 54, of Ash Grove, MO was sentenced today for sexually abusing two of his granddaughters between July 2008 and July 2011. On January 9, 2014, a Greene County jury convicted the defendant of statutory sodomy in the first degree, statutory sodomy in the first degree, sexual misconduct involving a child, child molestation in the first degree, statutory sodomy in the first degree, and child molestation in the first degree. The defendant also exercised his right to jury sentencing in this case. The jury recommended a life sentence for each conviction of statutory sodomy in the first degree, a 10 year sentence for each count of child molestation in the first degree, and a 4 year sentence for the conviction of sexual misconduct involving a child.

At sentencing, the State argued that the Court should follow the jury's recommendation as the jury had heard the evidence and all the sentencing arguments before rendering their verdict on sentencing. The State also argued that the victims would suffer a lifetime of emotional trauma. The mother of the victims noted that her oldest daughter cut herself to relieve the emotional pain. She testified that the youngest daughter began wetting the bed every night and it continued to the time of trial. She further stated that her daughters were scared of going to the bathroom alone and didn't want to be left alone with men. The State noted that in addition to the victims who testified at trial, that defendant also abused one of his nieces many years before he abused his granddaughters. Finally, the State noted that the defendant refused to accept responsibility in this offense and even until sentencing, accused the victims of lying about the abuse, although he gave no motive for the children to lie.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Sanders, 1231-CR03665-01

The defendant asked the Court to ignore the jury's recommendation and asked the judge to sentence him to a term of 10 to 15 years in the Department of Corrections. He cited his military record, health issues, and his employment record as mitigators. Judge Holden, instead, followed the jury's recommendation and sentenced the defendant to Life in prison for the conviction of statutory sodomy in the first degree, Life in prison for the conviction of statutory sodomy in the first degree, 4 years in prison for the conviction of sexual misconduct involving a child, 10 years in prison for the conviction of child molestation in the first degree, Life in prison for the conviction of statutory sodomy in the first degree, and 10 years in prison for the conviction of child molestation in the first degree. Probation was denied. Those sentences were ordered to run concurrently to each other for a total Life sentence. In Missouri, Life is calculated at 30 years. Statutory sodomy in the first degree is a dangerous felony so the defendant will not be eligible for parole until he has served 85% of his sentence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Stephanie Wan and Joseph Arnold. It was investigated by the Greene County Sheriff's Office and Sergeant Mark Staeger was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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