



NEWS RELEASE
GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
DAN PATTERSON

Contact: Rhonda Ogden, Office Manager – (417) 868-4061
1010 Boonville
Springfield, MO 65802

05/02/2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Springfield Man Sentenced to 26 Years in Prison for Shooting

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Kenneth A. Stewart, 19, of Springfield, was sentenced today for a shooting that occurred on July 25, 2013 in the 600 block of West Mount Vernon Street. Stewart was found guilty following a jury trial on April 8, 2014 of assault in the first degree, two counts of endangering the welfare of a child in the first degree, and three counts of armed criminal action.

The evidence at trial showed that, around noon on July 25, 2013, the adult victim was shot by Stewart while he was playing with his daughters in his backyard. Stewart climbed a privacy fence located behind the victims' property and approached them with a handgun. The adult victim immediately picked up his daughters and ran toward his house to get his children to safety. Stewart pursued them across the yard, firing numerous shots at the victims as they fled to the house, striking the adult victim twice in the back and narrowly missing the children.

At today's sentencing, the State argued that, although Stewart may have been aiming at the adult victim, his actions created a substantial risk to the safety of the children. Therefore, a longer prison sentence was appropriate. Stewart's attorney argued that Stewart had a troubled childhood and suffered from drug addiction from a young age, and stated that Stewart may have even been under the influence of drugs while he committed the shooting. He further argued that Stewart would like the chance to be a father to his young son, and a long prison sentence would deprive him of the opportunity to do so. The State replied by arguing that an individual who committed a shooting that put the lives of children in danger should not be permitted to be around children and that the defendant was a danger to the community.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Stewart, 1331-CR04268-01

After considering the arguments and hearing from the adult victim and the defendant, the Honorable Calvin Holden sentenced Stewart to 14 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections for the conviction for assault in the first degree, six years in the Missouri Department of Corrections for each conviction of endangering the welfare of a child in the first degree, and three years in the Missouri Department of Corrections for each conviction of armed criminal action. Judge Holden ordered that the assault in the first degree sentence be run consecutive to the endangering the welfare of a child sentences, but those would run concurrent to the armed criminal action sentences, for a total of 26 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Philip Fuhrman and Joseph Arnold. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective Scott Hill was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

###