



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Family Friend Convicted of Molesting Child

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that John Manuel Galvan, 58, of Springfield, MO was convicted yesterday afternoon, September 6, 2012, by a Greene County jury of statutory sodomy in the first degree and child molestation in the first degree following a three day jury trial before the Honorable Calvin Holden. The jury deliberated for almost four hours before returning their verdict.

The defendant was convicted of inappropriately touching the then six-year-old victim in 2009. The defendant was a family friend to the victim's family and, at the time of the abuse, was residing with the victim's mother. The victim did not disclose that the abuse had occurred until 2011, after which time the police were notified and an investigation of the defendant began. Evidence at the trial showed that the victim was too scared to tell anyone about what the defendant had done to her. Once the investigation began, the victim was interviewed at the Child Advocacy Center where she gave a full disclosure regarding the abuse during that forensic interview. The victim, now 9 years old, testified at the trial. The defendant has prior felony convictions for distribution of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance.

Statutory sodomy in the first degree has a range of punishment of 10 year to 30 years, or life, in the Missouri Department of Corrections. If the defendant is sentenced to prison on the statutory sodomy conviction, he will not be eligible for parole until he has served 85% of his sentence. Child molestation in the first degree has a range of punishment from 5 years to 15 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections. Following the verdict, the defendant was remanded to the custody of the Greene County Jail and is currently behind held without bond. Judge Holden set a

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sentencing hearing for November 2, 2012 at 2:45PM following a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole.

This case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Stephanie Wan and Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Nathan Taylor. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective Fredrick Beck was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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