



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Man Convicted of Having Sexual Contact With Victim Half His Age

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Ryan Heith Patty, 33, was convicted this morning by a Greene County Jury of Statutory Sodomy in the Second Degree following a three day jury trial before the Honorable Calvin Holden. The jury deliberated for approximately thirty minutes before returning their verdict.

The defendant, then 32 years old, was convicted of having sexual contact with the victim, then 15 years old, in 2012. The defendant had been a family friend to the victim's family at the time of the abuse. The evidence showed that the defendant had ingratiated himself into the victim's life by becoming the victim's confidante and a trusted authority figure to the victim. In April 2012, the defendant was supposed to drive the victim to school, and prior to taking her to school, he brought her back to his bedroom and had sexual contact with her. The evidence further showed that the victim told the defendant that she was not ready to engage in any sexual contact and the defendant continued to have sexual contact with her. After the incident, the defendant then drove her to school, at which time, the victim immediately disclosed to school officials who, in turn, immediately reported the abuse. The defendant was later interviewed by Springfield Police Detective Robert Byrne and confessed to having sexual contact with the minor victim. Further investigation showed that the defendant's DNA was found on the victim's face. The victim, now 16 years old, testified at the trial.

Statutory sodomy in the second degree has a range of punishment of 1 day in the Greene County Jail to 7 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections. The defendant may also receive a fine up to \$5000 or some combination of fine and imprisonment. As a result of this conviction, the defendant will have to register with the

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sex offender registry. Judge Holden set a sentencing date for April 12, 2013 at 2:00PM following a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Stephanie Wan and Nathan Chapman. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Sergeant Robert Byrne was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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