



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SENTENCING HELD ON SEX OFFENDER; DEFENDANT BLAMES CHILD VICTIM,
JUDGE GRANTS PROBATION

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Ryan Heith Patty, 33, was sentenced today for Statutory Sodomy in the Second Degree.

Patty was sentenced by the Honorable Calvin Holden to a suspended sentence of seven years in the Missouri Department of Corrections, with five years of supervised probation.

Patty was convicted on February 8, 2013 after a three day jury trial. Prior to trial the defendant waived jury sentencing, preferring to be sentenced by the Judge if found guilty. Today the defendant was sentenced in front of Judge Holden following a Sentencing Assessment Report prepared by probation and parole. The State argued for the maximum sentence of seven years in the Missouri Department of Corrections with probation denied. As part of the State's argument APA Stephanie Wan noted that during the defendant's interview for the Sentencing Assessment Report, the defendant blamed the child victim when he stated, "I was just another notch in her belt. She has daddy issues, he molested her and she has taken advantage of any man who tried to help her...she needs to be classified as a sex offender." APA Wan also argued that probation was not appropriate because the defendant groomed the victim by becoming a confidante and trusted authority figure.

The evidence at trial showed in April of 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

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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.

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

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