



NEWS RELEASE
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04/17/2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRINGFIELD MAN FOUND NOT GUILTY OF FORCIBLE RAPE

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Billey J. Rogers, 54, of Springfield, MO was found not guilty yesterday by a Greene County Jury of the rape of a Springfield woman.

Rogers was found not guilty of the three counts contained in the felony information. The jury deliberated for three and one-half hours before returning its verdict.

The Defendant had been charged with forcible rape, forcible sodomy, and attempted forcible sodomy for events that took place on or about January 1, 2011 in Springfield, Missouri. The victim in the case testified that she was forced to have sex by the Defendant. She testified that she had met him on a previous occasion and that he had been kind to her before. She testified that on January 1, 2011, she sat in his car with him, drinking a beer, when he decided to drive away with her in the car. The victim reported that he forced her to perform oral sex, then that he forced her to have vaginal sex, and that finally he tried to have anal sex with her. A friend of the victim's called the police on January 2, 2011, and the victim told the responding officer what happened. She went to the emergency department at Cox North, and a nurse performed evidence collection. There were no injuries, which is not uncommon for victims of sexual assault. The DNA that came from the evidence collection was sent to the Missouri State Highway Patrol, which confirmed that the sperm found in the victim's vagina was from the Defendant.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Rogers, 1231-CR04792

Detective Maggie McDowell contacted the Defendant, who initially denied even knowing the victim, and then informed the detective that he had never had sex with the victim, because their relationship had never reached “that level.”

The victim testified at a preliminary hearing and at depositions on the request of the Defense. Her testimony at the trial did reveal some contradictions. The Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys argued at trial that, even though the victim was an alcoholic who was traumatized by the attack, she was credible. She had nothing to gain by accusing the defendant of these serious offenses. At the jury trial this week, the defendant testified for the first time, alleging that the victim had sex with him for twenty-five dollars and that the sex was consensual, and finally admitted that he lied to Detective McDowell when he told her that he did not know the victim or have sex with the victim. The Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys argued that the defendant picked his victim because he thought no one would believe her, given her alcoholism and life circumstances.

At trial, the jury learned that the Defendant had convictions for sexual misconduct in the first degree, harassment, violation of an ex parte, possession of marijuana (felony), and assault in the second degree (felony). In accordance with Missouri and federal law, the jury did not learn that the Defendant had twice been charged with forcible rape before, including once in Greene County in 2004 in a case that was dismissed before it could be tried because the victim in that case died.

The jury trial was presided over by The Honorable Dan Conklin.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Emily Monroe and Nathan Chapman. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department, and Detective Maggie McDowell was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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