



NEWS RELEASE
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08/09/2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Man Found Guilty of Aggravated Stalking

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Samuel R. Harvill, 21, of Stark City, MO was convicted today by a Greene County judge of stalking his ex-girlfriend in violation of an order of protection.

The evidence at trial was that the victim had broken up with the defendant in early October 2012. Despite indicating that she wanted nothing more to do with the defendant, he repeatedly called and texted her. Then on October 20, 2012, the defendant showed up on the victim's college campus looking for her. He was promptly removed from the campus by security, told that the victim wanted no contact with him, and told not to return. Several hours later, he was found on campus and arrested by officers with the Springfield Police Department. Prior to his first arrest, the defendant located and vandalized the victim's car, which included writing "I love Samuel" on her window. He also made several phone calls to the victim from the Greene County Jail, all of which went unanswered. After the defendant was released from jail, he was spotted on campus three more times, culminating in another arrest by an officer from the Springfield Police Department. When he was arrested the final time, the defendant admitted that he had taken a gun with him to speak to the victim. The gun was recovered in an alley near campus by the Springfield Police Department. The judge also listened to hours of jail phone calls made by the defendant to friends and family after he was charged with aggravated stalking. In those phone calls, the defendant continued to express a desire to see the victim and that he intended to get back at her for calling the police on him.

The victim testified at trial. During her testimony, she also discussed all the safety precautions she took to protect herself from the defendant which included hiding her car on campus, temporarily moving from her dorm, obtaining an order of protection

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Harvill, 1231-CR06556

against the defendant, and changing her phone number. She further testified that she was going to continue to engage in a safety plan after the trial and into the upcoming school year to prevent the defendant from having any contact with her.

Aggravated stalking carries a range of punishment of one day to four years in the Missouri Department of Corrections and/or a fine not to exceed \$5000. Judge Holden set a sentencing hearing for October 25, 2013 at 1:30PM following a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole.

According to the Bureau of Justice, during a 12 month period an estimated 14 in every 1,000 persons age 18 or older were victims of stalking. About half (46%) of stalking victims experienced at least one unwanted contact per week, and 11% of victims said they had been stalked for 5 years or more. The risk of stalking victimization was highest for individuals who were divorced or separated – 34 per 1,000 individuals. If you or someone you know is a victim of a stalking, you may contact Harmony House at (417)864-7233 (SAFE) or the Victim Center at (800)743-5265.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Stephanie Wan and Chris Hoeman. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Sergeant Charles Vienhage was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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