



NEWS RELEASE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prison Sentences Given in Two Cases Involving Sexual Abuse

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Eric P. Hicks, 39, of Springfield, Mo was sentenced yesterday for the sexual abuse of his step-daughter and her friend from 2005 to 2007. On January 30, 2013 the Defendant pleaded guilty before The Honorable Thomas Mountjoy to statutory rape in the first degree, two counts of statutory sodomy in the first degree, and statutory rape in the second degree.

The Defendant had custody of his step-daughter from 2000 till 2008. Starting in 2006 the Defendant began having oral sex and sexual intercourse with her at his house in Springfield. During the same time period Defendant would engage in oral sex with his step-daughter's 12 year old friend when she would come over to the house. The disclosures of abuse came in 2009 after the step-daughter went back to live with her biological mother. Both victims delayed disclosure because they were afraid, and the step-daughter looked at Defendant as a father figure.

After a sentencing hearing yesterday Defendant was sentenced by Judge Mountjoy to 13 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections for the charges of statutory rape in the first degree and statutory sodomy in the first degree, and seven years for statutory rape in the second degree. The sentences were ordered to run concurrently and probation was denied. Due to the nature of the charges the Defendant will have to serve at least 85 percent of his sentence before he is eligible for parole. Upon release from the Missouri Department of Corrections the Defendant will be required to register as a sex offender.

By the Defendant agreeing to the guilty plea the victims were spared having to take the witness stand and recount all the details of the abuse. In addition, the

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Defendant was held accountable and had to admit his guilt in open court with the victims present. During the sentencing hearing Judge Mountjoy commented on the courage of the victims and noted that they will suffer effects of the abuse inflicted by the Defendant for the rest of their lives.

Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Larry C. Wilson, 40, of Springfield, Mo plead guilty and was sentenced yesterday for sexually abusing the five year old son of a family friend. Wilson pleaded guilty to the charge of statutory sodomy in the first degree before The Honorable Calvin Holden.

The Defendant was a trusted family friend of the victim's mother. Between October 19, 2012 and October 21, 2012 the Defendant watched the victim while the victim's mother was out of town visiting friends. The victim's son disclosed the abuse after the mother picked him up from the Defendant's residence. Immediately following the disclosure the victim's mother went to the police and an investigation ensued. During an interview with Springfield Police Detective Steve Ramey the Defendant confessed to the sexual abuse disclosed by the five year old victim.

Following the guilty plea on December 17, 2013 the Defendant was sentenced to 12 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections with probation being denied. Due to the nature of the charge the Defendant will have to serve at least 85 percent of his sentence before he is eligible for parole. Upon release from the Missouri Department of Corrections the Defendant will be required to register as a sex offender and will be subject to lifetime supervision, including GPS monitoring.