



NEWS RELEASE  
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12/03/2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Man Received Life in Prison for Sexually Abusing Step-Daughters

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that John Wesley Kimberlin, 36, of Springfield, MO was sentenced yesterday for sexually abusing his step-daughters between February 2003 and September 2005. On August 16, 2013, a Greene County Jury convicted the defendant of statutory sodomy in the first degree, child molestation in the first degree, statutory sodomy in the first degree, and statutory sodomy in the first degree. The defendant was also charged with statutory rape in the first degree, but the jury was unable to reach a verdict on that count.

The Court also found that Kimberlin was a prior and persistent felony offender. His prior convictions include burglary in the second degree, stealing, driving while intoxicated, tampering in the first degree, knowingly burning, and endangering the welfare of a child in the first degree. The endangering the welfare of a child conviction stems from an incident in which Kimberlin provided alcohol to his step-son (and the brother to the victims in the present case) until his step-son's blood alcohol content was .212.

Kimberlin was sentenced by the Honorable Thomas Mountjoy to 30 years (or life) in the Missouri Department of Corrections for each conviction. Those sentences were ordered to run concurrently to each other for a total of 30 years (or life) in the Missouri Department of Corrections. Probation was denied.

During sentencing, Kimberlin argued that the victims continued to visit him and show affection towards him, even after the abuse, and suggested that this was a mitigating factor. Judge Mountjoy dismissed that argument, noting that the victims' behavior was not uncommon, especially when children are abused by adults they love

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Kimberlin, 1131-CR01737

and trust. He further noted that the victims will live with the consequences of the defendant's abuse for the rest of their lives.

**This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Stephanie Wan and Nathan Taylor. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Corporal Nathan Thomas was the lead investigator assigned to the case.**

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