



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Woman Found Guilty of Helping a Friend Make Methamphetamine

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Terisa Stephens, 51, of Springfield, Missouri was convicted yesterday by a Greene County Jury of the manufacturing and possession of methamphetamine.

Stephens was found guilty of two counts contained in the felony information. The jury deliberated for an hour and a half before returning its verdict.

On May 5, 2010 officers with the Greene County Sherriff's Officer responded to a residence north of Willard in regard to a deceased man at that location. When officers arrived on scene they discovered a deceased man laying in the yard in front of the residence. Sergeant Sackman could smell a chemical odor coming from the residence and after a brief search found a meth lab inside the home. Officers from the Combined Ozarks Multi-Jurisdictional Enforcement Team (C.O.M.E.T.) responded and removed and processed the meth lab. The defendant was living at the residence with the codefendant, Larry Jackson. The defendant admitted on scene that she helped "cut matches" for the process. At the trial, Jackson testified that the meth lab belonged to him, but the defendant did help him by cutting off the striker plates of matches which allowed him to remove the red phosphorous, a key ingredient and essential step for that type of meth lab. In fact, the method used by Jackson is often called the "red phosphorous method." The defendant also took the stand and testified that she "cut matches" twice but she also admitted that she was using the meth. The defense attorney argued that the defendant's role in the manufacturing process was not sufficient to find her guilty of the crime of manufacturing. However, the law stated that "a person is responsible for the conduct of another person . . . if, for the purpose of committing [the] offense, she aids or encourages the other person in committing it." The

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jury determined that the defendant's conduct was sufficient to hold her responsible as an accomplice to the crime. Jackson pled guilty for the same crime in August of 2013.

The jury trial was presided over by The Honorable Dan Conklin. The defendant is subject to a sentence of five to fifteen years in the Department of Correction. Judge Conklin set a sentencing hearing for January 7, 2015 following a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Kevin Young and James Whiteside. It was investigated by the Greene County Sheriff's Office and the Combined Ozarks Multi-Jurisdictional Enforcement Team (C.O.M.E.T.). Detective Jamin Sackman was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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