



NEWS RELEASE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Defendant Pleads Guilty to Attempted Rape Against Sister-in-law

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Beningo Velasquez Chavez, 38, of Springfield, MO entered a guilty plea today to forcible sodomy, attempted forcible rape, and two counts of armed criminal action in court before the Honorable Calvin Holden.

The defendant sexually assaulted his sister-in-law while she was a guest in his family's home on the night of October 27, 2012 in Springfield, Missouri. Before going to her room, he turned the power to the house off. He went into the room where she was sleeping, waking her up as he began to assault her. In the course of the assault, the defendant threatened the victim with a meat cleaver. The victim feared for her life. His wife woke up, and finding that her husband was not in their bed, she went to the bedroom where the victim was sleeping, discovering her husband in the middle of the assault. The defendant's wife tried to turn on lights, but all of the power breakers to the home had been turned off. The defendant left the home after taking the victim's cell phone. The defendant's wife could not find her own cell phone, and so once the two women were sure that the defendant had left in his vehicle, they drove first to their parents' home, and then, with their parents, to the Springfield Police Department South District Station, which was closed due to the time. They then traveled to the victim's home, but upon arrival, they discovered that the defendant had arrived earlier, hiding his vehicle behind the victim's home. The women did not enter the home at that time, using their parents' cell phone to call 911. Law enforcement directed the women to go to the Greene County Sheriff's Office, while other officers responded to the victim's home. An officer spotted the defendant driving away from the residence, and the defendant was arrested during a traffic stop shortly afterwards. At the time of his arrest, officers recovered two cell phones, later determined to be the cell phones of the victim and the defendant's wife. When law enforcement searched the defendant's home, they found a

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meat cleaver underneath the pillow on the bed where the defendant's wife found him assaulting the victim.

Under the plea agreement, the defendant was sentenced of a term of ten years in the Department of Corrections for attempted forcible rape and forcible sodomy and a term of three years in the Department of Corrections for armed criminal action. He will have to serve at least 85% of the ten year sentence, as well as three years in prison in addition to that for armed criminal action, before he will be eligible for parole. The defendant will have to register as a sex offender and will be subject to lifetime supervision due to the nature of the charges.

While sexual assaults happen with an alarming frequency, use of weapons in such assaults is actually a rarity. According to the Department of Justice, in 2010, only 12% of rapes and sexual assaults involved a weapon.

**This case was prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Emily Monroe. It was investigated by the Greene County Sheriff's Office and Detective Jon Poulson was the lead investigator assigned to the case.**

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