



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jury Finds Guest in Victim's Home Guilty of Attempted Enticement of a Child

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Duane Michaud, 33, was convicted Wednesday, August 16, 2017, by a Greene County Jury of attempting to persuade a 14-year-old girl to engage in sexual conduct. The jury deliberated for 54 minutes before returning its verdict.

The Defendant was found guilty by the jury after being charged with Attempted Enticement of a Child for events that took place during the summer of 2012 in Springfield, Missouri. Between June and August of 2012, the defendant was the guest of the victim's family in Springfield after attending a wedding with them in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. During the night, a relative was awakened when the defendant got up from sleeping on the couch and went into the bedroom in which the victim was sleeping. The next morning the victim initially disclosed that the defendant had come into the bedroom and held her down while kissing her. The initial disclosure was kept from the victim's father for fear that he would take matters into his own hands. In October 2013, the victim further disclosed that the defendant had come into the bedroom, laid down with her, spoken to her about being lonely and attempted to fondle her genitals. The victim disclosed that she was so scared she was unable to scream but that she grabbed the defendant's arm and then she was able to sit up and leave the room.

The jury trial was presided over by The Honorable Thomas Mountjoy. The jury recommended a sentence of five years in the Missouri Department of Corrections. Judge Mountjoy set a sentencing hearing for December 8, 2017 at 2:15 pm following a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Michaud, 1431-CR01698-01

The case was first set for jury trial on October 6, 2014 and was reset for trial by defense counsel five times before finally being heard by a jury. The victim in the case continued to cooperate with the prosecution for the nearly three and half year history of the case. Prosecutor Patterson stated this case illustrates how disclosure is a process for victims, how families often struggle in deciding how to respond to abuse, and, unfortunately, how long it can take to get some of these cases to trial.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Dane Rennie and Nathan Chapman. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective Chelsea Taylor was the lead investigator assigned to the case.