



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STRAFFORD MAN SENTENCED TO 18 YEARS FOR STATUTORY RAPE

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Calvin Wayne Matthews, 47, of Strafford, Missouri was convicted and sentenced on two counts of attempted statutory rape in the first degree on Friday, September 15, 2017.

Matthews was sentenced by the Honorable Thomas Mountjoy to two consecutive nine-year sentences, for a total of 18 years, in the Missouri Department of Corrections for the sexual abuse of a friend's child. The abuse began when the victim was 10 years old and lasted for over a year. The abuse was discovered by the victim's mother when she walked in on the defendant in her child's bedroom, nude from the waist down.

The victim told investigators that the defendant, whom she called "Uncle Calvin," would punish her when she would not perform sexual acts. She stated that he would take away her computer tablet and not talk with her. The defendant further threatened that if she told anyone about the sexual abuse he would never talk to her again. These types of, relatively, gentle threats are often successfully used by sex offenders to prevent victims' disclosures.

During the sentencing, the victim's mother addressed the Court to explain the impact that the defendant's sexual abuse has had on her daughter and their family. She movingly explained that the defendant had been a trusted family friend and his actions have forever changed their relationships with others, causing them not to trust anyone. She also explained that her child has suffered with severe depression due to the abuse she suffered at the hands of the defendant. The plea agreement in this case was reached, in part, to spare the child the trauma of testifying at trial.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v.
Matthews, 1631-CR09362-01

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Dawn Diel. It was investigated by the Strafford Police Department and Detective Jay Munhollon was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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