



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Man Sentenced to Life for Repeated Sexual Abuse of Daughter

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that on December 15, 2017 Michael Sneed was sentenced to life imprisonment for the sexual abuse of his daughter.

The sentence was imposed by the Honorable Judge Mountjoy after a bench trial held on April 13, 2017. The Judge heard testimony from the victim, now 27, about a lifelong history of abuse. The victim testified that Sneed began molesting her when she was five years old. The initial period of abuse lasted until the victim was 14 and felt safe coming forward. Charges were initially filed in 2005 by the Greene County Prosecutor's Office for child molestation in the first degree. The Judge listened to the victim describe how she received pressure from her own family to recant the allegations against her father. Finally, when she was 17, the victim declined to participate in the prosecution and the original case was dismissed in 2008.

Further testimony established that in 2014 Mr. Sneed was living in Willard and still had contact with the victim. During a party in August of 2014 the victim was given homemade "moonshine" by Mr. Sneed and became intoxicated. While in the bathroom Mr. Sneed came up behind the victim and digitally penetrated her. Judge Mountjoy heard the victim describe that after years of abuse and her family not believing her, she sought to obtain proof of her own. She recorded a conversation between herself and Mr. Sneed.

In the audio recording Mr. Sneed can be heard discussing the August 2014 incident when the victim was intoxicated. Sneed further discusses offering money to the victim if she would have sexual intercourse with him. The victim sent the recording to several family members to validate her lifelong claims of sexual abuse.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Sneed, 1531-CR06059-01

Eventually the recording was turned into the Willard Police Department and Det. Stephen Purdy began an investigation. After interviewing the victim Det. Purdy went back and obtained the reports from 2005 when charges were initially filed. Det. Purdy re-submitted the original 2005 case along with the August 2014 case. In addition to the Willard incident the Greene County Prosecutor's Office also re-filed the original case.

During the sentencing hearing last week Judge Mountjoy recalled that the victim was extensively cross-examined about her decision not to participate in the initial case dismissed in 2008. The Judge further remarked that the victim's explanation was credible and that her testimony, along with the audio recording, removed any doubt of Mr. Sneed's guilt. Mr. Sneed was given maximum sentences of seven years for child molestation in the first degree, 15 years for incest, and life imprisonment for statutory sodomy in the first degree.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Nathan Chapman. It was investigated by the Willard Police Department and Detective Stephen Purdy was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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