



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jury Finds Man Guilty of Domestic Assault for Choking and Slashing with Knife

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Robert Edward Smith, 59, of Springfield, Missouri was convicted yesterday by a Greene County Jury of assaulting his girlfriend by choking and cutting her. The jury deliberated for approximately five hours before returning its verdict.

Smith was found guilty of one count of Domestic Assault 2nd Degree and one count of Domestic Assault 3rd Degree for events that took place on June 6, 2016. On that date, the defendant and the victim were in a relationship and residing together in Springfield, Missouri. The defendant and the victim were in an argument over a cell phone, which quickly escalated into a physical altercation. The defendant proceeded to shove the victim to the ground and choke her, then slash at her with a knife. The victim had a large open wound on her right arm and discoloration and small marks on her neck. SPD's Corporal Estrada told the jury that in his 20 years of law enforcement experience and hundreds of domestic assault investigations, chokings often don't lead to visible injury.

The jury trial was presided over by The Honorable David Jones. The defendant is a prior and persistent felony offender and is subject to a sentence of up to fifteen years in the Missouri Department of Corrections. Judge Jones set a sentencing hearing for May 11, 2018 at 10:30 AM following a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole.

The victim was cooperative throughout the prosecution, testifying at both the preliminary hearing and the trial. Prosecutor Dan Patterson noted that this case emphasizes assaults involving chokings often don't leave physical evidence like other assaults. It is important to inform jurors of that through the experience of our law enforcement in these difficult cases.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v.
Smith, 1631-CR06664-01

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Dane Rennie and Dara Lindsay. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Corporal Alberto Estrada was the lead investigator assigned to the case.