



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRINGFIELD MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR MOLESTING HIS
GRANDDAUGHTERS

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Scott W. Blair, 60, of Springfield, MO was sentenced today for sexually abusing two of his granddaughters. The defendant pleaded guilty on October 22, 2013. Blair was sentenced by the Honorable Calvin Holden to prison for ten years in the Missouri Department of Correction for statutory sodomy in the first degree, attempted statutory sodomy in the first degree, and child molestation in the first degree, as well as to seven years prison for attempted child molestation in the first degree, all for his crimes against one of the granddaughters during the time period of 2003 through 2007. Additionally, the judge sentenced the defendant to prison for ten years for two counts of statutory sodomy in the first degree and child molestation in the first degree for his crimes against another one of his granddaughters during the time period of 2011 through 2012. The prison sentences of ten years for six counts and seven years for one count are to run concurrently rather than consecutively.

The elder of the two victims was abused on a few different occasions when she was six to eight years old by her grandfather when she visited him by herself. The defendant told her to keep the abuse a secret. She kept the defendant's secret for years until she suspected that her grandfather was then abusing her younger sister. She expressed her concern about her younger sister spending time alone at their grandfather's home to her mother, revealing what had happened to her approximately seven years before. Both children were interviewed separately at the Children Advocacy Center in Springfield, where they each disclosed details of the abuse. The defendant ultimately confessed to abusing his granddaughters.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Blair, 1331-CR00577

At the sentencing hearing today, the State presented victim impact statements from family members. The mother of the victims, daughter-in-law to the defendant, explained the impact on the defendant's crimes to her family. The victims' mother described times that the elder victim had acted out, including times that the child did not want to visit her grandparents. Although she did not initially understand why her daughter did not want to visit, she learned it was because the defendant was abusing her daughter. In addition to making her own statement, the mother read a letter written by the elder victim, now a teenager, detailing the anger that victim feels towards her grandfather and the fact that she believed that he should be sent to prison. The victims' father, the only child of the defendant, described the hurt and anger he has experienced as a result of his father's crimes. A sister of the defendant told the court about the times that she had been victimized by the defendant while they were children. This was the first time that she had spoken publicly about how the defendant sexually abused her. She told the judge that she had not told anyone about the abuse until she was in counseling at the age of thirty-five years.

The State recommended a sixteen year sentence on the most serious counts, citing punishment and prevention of further crimes as the primary reasons. The defense asked Judge Holden for probation, arguing that the defendant has a low risk to reoffend. The judge said that he weighed a number of factors, but in the determination of whether to grant or deny probation, punishment was the most important factor in this case. Judge Holden sentenced the defendant to prison for ten years and ordered the bailiff to take the defendant into custody today. The defendant must register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Emily Monroe. It was investigated by the Greene County Sheriff's Office and former Detective Mike Eatherly was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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