



NEWS RELEASE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Felon Convicted of Sodomizing Six Year Old Child

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces Jeremy E. Zapata, 36, of Springfield, Missouri, was convicted yesterday evening, August 1st, 2012, by a Greene County jury on four counts of statutory sodomy in the first degree. This verdict concluded a three day jury trial before the Honorable Judge Thomas Mountjoy. The jury deliberated for an hour and forty-five minutes before returning its verdict.

The four counts of sodomy in the first degree were based upon various acts committed against his ex-girlfriend's daughter, H.B., while she was five and six years of age. The defendant fled Greene County after the initial allegations and was tracked to Cedar City, Utah, where he was taken into custody with the assistance of agents from the United States Marshals Fugitive Task Force.

Judge Mountjoy set a sentencing hearing for November 16th, 2012, at 3:15 PM following a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole. The defendant, who has several felony convictions, is subject to a sentence of ten years to thirty years in the department of corrections on each of the four counts. The defendant is currently being held without bond in the Greene County Jail.

**This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Ami Miller and Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Philip Fuhrman. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Dept. and Detective Fredrick Beck was the lead investigator assigned to the case. The United States Marshals Fugitive Task Force was also involved in apprehending the defendant.**