



NEWS RELEASE  
GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
DAN PATTERSON

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Contact: Rhonda Ogden, Office Manager – (417) 868-4061  
1010 Boonville  
Springfield, MO 65802

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Man Sentenced to 15 Years for Stabbing Ex-Girlfriend

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Derwinn L. Cole, 45, of Springfield, MO was sentenced today for stabbing his ex-girlfriend. The evidence at trial was that, on January 10, 2012, Cole went to the victim's workplace with a knife to confront her because the victim had ended their relationship. Before entering the restaurant, Cole slashed the victim's tires and then entered the restaurant and confronted her with a knife. The victim testified that Cole raised the knife at her, tried to stab her, and then she grabbed the knife. Cole and the victim then struggled over the knife. One of the victim's co-workers heard the struggle and when he entered the restaurant lobby, he saw the defendant over the victim with the knife. The co-worker then grabbed Cole and was able to pull him off the victim. Two repairmen who were waiting outside the restaurant also assisted in stopping the assault and detaining Cole until the police arrived. On January 23, 2013, a Greene County jury found Cole guilty of the class C felony of domestic assault in the second degree, the unclassified felony of armed criminal action, and the class C felony of tampering in the first degree.

Cole was also found to be a prior and persistent felony offender. His prior convictions include burglary in the second degree, sale of a controlled substance, assault in the second degree, and driving while intoxicated. Cole's conviction for assault in the second degree stemmed from an incident in St. Louis, Missouri, where Cole choked a woman until she had a seizure.

Cole was sentenced by the Honorable Dan Conklin to 15 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections on the domestic assault in the second degree conviction, 3 years on the armed criminal action conviction, and 7 years on the tampering in the first

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Cole, 1231-CR00270

degree convictions. Those sentences are to run concurrently to each other for a total of 15 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections. Probation was denied.

The evidence at trial was that Cole committed these crimes because the victim had broken up with him and did not respond to his phone calls that he had made to her the weekend before the assault. According to the United State Department of Justice, the most dangerous time for a woman who is being abused is when she tries to leave. Therefore, it is important, for victims of domestic violence to ensure that they are familiar with the local resources and are able to make a safety plan when they are leaving their abusers. If you are a victim of domestic violence or need help with domestic violence, you may contact Harmony House (formerly known as the Family Violence Center) at (417)864-SAFE (7233), the Victim Center at (417)863-7273, or the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic Violence at (573)636-3728.

**This case was prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Stephanie Wan and Philip Furhman. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective Alberto Estrada was the lead investigator assigned to the case.**

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