



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Man Convicted of Neighborhood Shooting

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Kenneth A. Stewart, 19, of Springfield, Missouri was convicted yesterday, April 8, 2014, for shooting a man as he played with his daughters – ages 4 and 5 at the time. Stewart was convicted of one count of assault in the first degree, two counts of endangering the welfare of a child in the first degree, and three counts of armed criminal action following a jury trial before the Honorable Calvin Holden. The Greene County Jury deliberated for just over two hours.

Around noon on July 25, 2013, the victim was shot by Stewart while he was playing with his daughters in his backyard, located at the 600 block of West Mt. Vernon Street in Springfield. Stewart climbed a privacy fence located on the south side of the victim's property and approached the victim with a handgun. The victim immediately picked up his daughters and ran toward his house to get his children inside. Stewart pursued the victim, firing multiple shots at him as he carried his daughters, striking him twice. The victim was struck once in the back of his shoulder and once in the back of his hip. The first bullet remained lodged in his arm until it was removed four months after the shooting, while the second bullet passed through the victim's body, resulting in an exit wound in the front of his hip. He has had extensive medical treatment since the shooting, including emergency exploratory surgery.

Although the victim was not well-acquainted with Stewart, he had seen him prior to the shooting and was able to immediately identify him as the shooter. He also provided police with a description of the weapon used in the assault. Stewart was located shortly after the shooting at a nearby apartment complex. Following a brief standoff, Stewart exited one of the apartment units. Police then gained consent to search that apartment and located a small-caliber handgun matching the description

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Stewart, 1331-CR04268-01

provided by the victim, along with a large bag of ammunition inside. These items were covered in a liquid chemical substance. Springfield Police officers discovered three shell casings at the scene of the shooting which matched the make and caliber of those found at the apartment, along with two slugs which had passed through the exterior walls of the victim's home into the interior.

At trial, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Philip Fuhrman introduced into evidence a portion of the exterior siding from the victim's home, which had been riddled with seven bullet holes. The victim testified that this paneling had been located behind him and his daughters as they fled from Stewart's gunshots. APA Fuhrman also presented a videotaped interview with the defendant wherein Stewart admitted to going to the victim's house, climbing the fence to his backyard, and shooting a gun 6-7 times. He also acknowledged that children were present at the scene. He further admitted that he had hidden the handgun at the apartment after the shooting.

The defendant exercised his right to jury sentencing in this case. During sentencing, the jury heard from the victim and the mother of the two child victims, who testified to the long-term effects the shooting has had on her daughters. She stated that her daughters fear for their safety and that of their father. The State requested the maximum possible sentence on the assault in the first degree and endangering the welfare of a child in the first degree counts.

After hearing evidence and argument, the jury recommended a 14-year sentence for the conviction for assault in the first degree, a 3-year sentence for the conviction for armed criminal action, a 6-year sentence for the conviction for endangering the welfare of a minor in the first degree, a 3-year sentence for the conviction for armed criminal action, a 6-year sentence for the conviction for endangering the welfare of a minor in the first degree, and a 3-year sentence for the conviction for armed criminal action. The defendant is currently being held in the Greene County Jail without bond. Judge Holden set a sentencing hearing for May 2, 2014.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Philip Fuhrman and Joseph Arnold. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Dept. and Detective Scott Hill was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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