



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Man Pleads Guilty Mid-Trial to Sexually Abusing 12 Year Old

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Nicholas Rountree, 20, of Springfield, Missouri, pled guilty yesterday to four counts of the unclassified felony of statutory sodomy in the first degree for sexually abusing a twelve year old family friend. The defendant announced his guilty plea in the middle of the jury trial after forcing the now-fourteen year old victim to take the witness stand and in the middle of the victim’s testimony. The jury trial that began on Monday, April 1, 2013, was presided over by the Honorable Dan Conklin.

Rountree began his friendship with the victim when the victim was eleven years old and the two were in the same Boy Scout troop. Rountree was a mentor to the victim and began spending more and more time with the victim outside of scout functions until he was seeing the victim on a daily basis. After the victim had grown to trust the defendant, the defendant began sexually abusing the victim which included subjecting the victim to oral sex, anal sex, and digital penetration. The defendant told the victim that the sexual contact was needed so that the victim and the defendant could become “blood brothers.” The victim did not initially disclose the abuse. But the victim disclosed when his mother confronted the victim after the victim’s mother observed suspicious behavior between the defendant and the victim. The victim was interviewed at the Child Advocacy Center where he disclosed further details of the abuse. The defendant was interviewed by Corporal Nathan Thomas with the Springfield Police Department. In the interview, the defendant admitted to subjecting the victim to oral sex, admitting to touching the victim’s penis with the defendant’s hand, subjecting the

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victim to digital penetration, and subjecting the victim to anal sex. The defendant also told Corporal Thomas that these actions were relayed to him by a group of unidentified friends as the "initiation" for becoming "blood brothers." The abuse occurred between the dates of March 17, 2011 and June 19, 2011.

Rountree's guilty plea came in the middle of trial after the victim's mother had testified and in the middle of the victim's testimony. Rountree pled guilty without a plea agreement which means he is subject to the entire range of punishment. Each count of statutory sodomy in the first degree has a range of punishment of 5 years to 30 years, or Life, in the Missouri Department of Corrections. As a result of this guilty plea, Rountree will have to register as a sex offender and is subject to lifetime supervision.

Judge Conklin set a sentencing hearing for June 5, 2013, at 8:30AM, following a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Stephanie Wan and Nathan Taylor. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Corporal Nathan Thomas was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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