



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Man Sentenced to Life Plus 15 Years for Rape

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Charlie Kavelle West, 30, of Cedar Rapids, IA was sentenced today for raping a woman in June 2009. The defendant was previously found guilty of forcible rape, forcible sodomy, and kidnapping following a jury trial. The evidence at trial was that the victim was walking on Cherry Street, east of National, when the defendant grabbed her, dragged to a secluded spot in a yard, and raped her. During the attack, the defendant threatened to kill her. The victim immediately reported the rape and underwent a sexual assault forensic examination. DNA was found as a result of the examination but the defendant was not identified until 2010 when the Missouri State Highway Patrol matched the defendant's DNA with the DNA profile from the victim's examination. The defendant was apprehended in Iowa in 2012.

The State requested Life (or 30 years) in the Missouri Department of Corrections for the conviction for forcible rape, Life in the Missouri Department of Corrections for the conviction for forcible sodomy, and 15 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections for the conviction for kidnapping. In explaining its request, the State argued the aggravating facts of the case, that the defendant has failed to take any responsibility for his actions, and that the defendant would continue to be a danger to the community if he was not incarcerated for a long period of time.

Defense requested a range of 10 years to 20 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections. Defendant made a statement at sentencing in which he blamed the victim and accused her of falsely reporting the rape. Judge Mountjoy strongly rejected that argument stating the he did not believe the defendant, the jury did not believe the defendant, that the defendant had earned the sentence, and that there was nothing mitigating about this offense. Judge Mountjoy agreed with the State that a lengthy

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sentence was needed to protect the victim and the community from the defendant. Judge Mountjoy followed the State's recommendation and sentenced the defendant to Life in the Missouri Department of Corrections on the forcible rape conviction, Life in the Missouri Department of Corrections on the forcible sodomy, and 15 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections. Judge Mountjoy ordered the Life sentences to run concurrent to each other and consecutive to the 15 year sentence. Continuing in his pattern of victim-blaming, the defendant called the victim a derogatory name on the way back to holding cell.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Emily Monroe and Kevin Young. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Dept. and Detective Heather Anderson was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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