



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREENE COUNTY JURY CONVICTS MAN OF FORCIBLE RAPE

SPRINGFIELD, MO. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Charlie K. West, 30, of Chicago, IL was convicted today by a Greene County Jury of forcible rape, forcible sodomy, and kidnapping for raping a young woman on June 15, 2009. The jury deliberated almost three hours before announcing their verdict.

At trial, the State presented testimony from the victim, a Missouri State University student, about how a stranger came up from behind her while she was walking on Cherry Street, threw his arms around her and dragged her to a secluded spot in a yard between a garage and a tall wooden privacy fence. The defendant threatened her life, and she believed his threats. He raped and sodomized her, running away after he was done. The victim reported the rape immediately, and she underwent a sexual assault forensic examination (SAFE). Swabs taken from the SAFE were found to contain semen. A D.N.A. profile was developed from the semen and was entered into the Combined D.N.A. Index System. In early 2010, the Missouri State Highway Patrol learned that the D.N.A. profile from the sperm sample matched the defendant's D.N.A., a "cold hit." Over the next two years, Springfield Police Department worked with other law enforcement agencies, including police officers in Chicago, U.S. Marshals, and police officers in Des Moines, Iowa, to locate the defendant. Once the defendant was found in Iowa, another sample was taken of his D.N.A. and the match was confirmed. The defendant told law enforcement officers in Iowa that he never met the victim, that he never had sex with her, and that he never had sex outside when he lived in Springfield.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. West, 1231-CR01973-01

Based on the jury's verdict today, the jury did not believe the defendant's testimony that he knew the victim and that they had consensual sex outside on the Missouri State University campus. His testimony at trial contradicted what he had previously told law enforcement in Iowa. The defendant acknowledged three felony drug convictions for possessing heroin in Illinois from 2004 as well as a misdemeanor drug conviction for marijuana in Iowa in 2012.

The jury trial was presided over by The Honorable Thomas Mountjoy. The defendant faces a mandatory minimum of ten years in prison up to a maximum of three life sentences in the Missouri Department of Corrections. Judge Mountjoy set a sentencing hearing for February 7, 2014 at 2:45 p.m. following a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Emily Monroe and Kevin Young. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Dept. and Detectives Rod Noble and Heather Anderson were the lead investigators assigned to the case.

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