



NEWS RELEASE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SPRINGFIELD MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MOLESTING HIS GRANDDAUGHTERS**

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Scott W. Blair, 60, of Springfield, MO entered a guilty plea to sexually abusing two of his granddaughters. The elder of the two victims was abused on a few different occasions when she was six to eight years old by her grandfather when she visited him by herself. The defendant told her to keep the abuse a secret. She kept the defendant's secret for years, until she suspected that her grandfather was then abusing her younger sister. She expressed her concern about her younger sister spending time alone at their grandfather's home to her mother, revealing what had happened to her approximately seven years before. Her parents immediately took steps to protect their children and notified authorities. Both children were interviewed separately at the Children Advocacy Center in Springfield, where they each disclosed details of the abuse. When interviewed by Detective Mike Eatherly of the Greene County Sheriff's Office, the defendant confessed to sexually abusing both girls while he was alone in his home with each of them on several occasions.

This morning, Blair entered a guilty plea before the Honorable Calvin Holden to statutory sodomy in the first degree, attempted statutory sodomy in the first degree, child molestation in the first degree, and attempted child molestation in the first degree for his crimes against one of his granddaughters during the time period of 2003 through 2007. Additionally, the defendant pleaded guilty to two counts of statutory sodomy in the first degree and child molestation in the first degree for his crimes against another one of his granddaughters during the time period of 2011 through 2012.

The defendant pleaded guilty to the seven counts without the benefit of a plea agreement from the State, which means that he is subject to the entire range of punishment at sentencing. If he is sentenced to the Department of Corrections, the

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sentences for each of the seven counts might run concurrently or consecutively. On the four most serious counts, the defendant faces a sentence of at least ten years and up to life in the Missouri Department of Corrections. Regardless of whether the defendant receives probation, he must register and is subject to lifetime supervision as a sex offender. Judge Holden set a sentencing hearing for December 19, 2013 at 2:15 p.m. following a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole.

Delayed disclosure, like what happened in this case, is not uncommon in cases of child sexual abuse. According to the Child Advocacy Center, close to two-thirds of all child victims may not tell their parents or anyone else because they fear being blamed, punished, or not being believed. If you or someone you know suspects child abuse or neglect, please call the child abuse and neglect hotline at 1-800-392-3738.

**This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Emily Monroe. It was investigated by the Greene County Sheriff's Office and Detective Mike Eatherly was the lead investigator assigned to the case.**

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