



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sex Offender Sentenced to 25 years

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that on August 1, 2012, a jury convicted Jeremy E. Zapata, 36, of Springfield, Missouri, of four counts of statutory sodomy in the first degree involving a child less than 12 years old. These charges stemmed from events occurring between May 14, 2008, and January 24, 2010, at 2301 N. National, Springfield, Missouri. The defendant, who was the boyfriend of the victim's mother, began to sodomize the child at five years of age. The jury trial was presided over by The Honorable Thomas E. Mountjoy.

Today, The Honorable Thomas E. Mountjoy sentenced Mr. Zapata to 25 years imprisonment in the Missouri Department of Corrections on each of the four counts of statutory sodomy of a child less than 12 years old. The sentences on each count are to run concurrent to one another. The sentencing range for the unclassified felony of statutory sodomy in the first degree involving a child under 12 years old is from 10 years in the Department of Corrections to Life in the Department of Corrections and is deemed a dangerous felony by Missouri statute, which means Mr. Zapata will have to serve 85% of his sentence before being eligible for parole.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Philip Fuhrman and Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Ami Miller. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective Fredrick Beck was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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