



NEWS RELEASE
GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
DAN PATTERSON

Contact: Rhonda Ogden, Office Manager – (417) 868-4061
1010 Boonville
Springfield, MO 65802

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Man Sentenced for Sexually Abusing 12 Year Old

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Nicholas D. Rountree, 20, of, Springfield Missouri was sentenced today for sexually abusing a 12 year old boy. The defendant previously pled guilty to four counts of statutory sodomy in the first degree mid-trial, after forcing the victim, now 14, to take the stand. Rountree met the victim when he 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 “strengthen their relationship.” Although the victim initially did not disclose the abuse, the victim’s mother observed behavior between the victim and Rountree that caused her concern. Based on her observations, she asked the victim about potential abuse and the victim disclosed the abuse which began a police investigation. The defendant was interviewed by Corporal Nathan Thomas with the Springfield Police Department. In the interview, the defendant admitted to sexually abusing the victim.

Rountree was sentenced by The Honorable Dan Conklin to five years in the Missouri Department of Corrections on each the four counts of statutory sodomy in the first degree. Those sentences are to run concurrently to each other for a total of five years in the Missouri Department of Corrections. Probation was denied. Assistant Prosecutor Stephanie Wan argued for a 15 year sentence in the Missouri Department of Corrections and the defense argued for probation.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Rountree, 1131-CR04748

The evidence in this case was that Rountree was very close to the victim's family, spent a great deal of time of the victim's home with the victim's family, and was a mentor to the victim. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, people who sexually abuse children are likely to be people the victim knows or people who have close contact with the victim and can even be people that the victim cares about. As in this case, parents must watch for inappropriate behaviors in other adults or older youth because children are not as able to recognize these behaviors or to protect themselves. Parents and other individuals responsible for the care of children are encouraged to speak up when they see any appropriate behavior and report anything that they know or suspect may be child abuse. If you need to report child abuse, you can call the Child Abuse and Neglect hotline at 1-800-392-3738. If you are someone you know needs assistance dealing with abuse, you can contact The Victim Center at (417)864-7233 (SAFE) to get information and resources on counseling.

This case was 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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