



NEWS RELEASE

GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

DAN PATTERSON

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

05/06/2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEROIN DEALER SENTENCED

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Wesley Dale Houseal, 21, of Springfield was sentenced yesterday for selling heroin to an undercover police officer in August of 2014.

Houseal was sentenced by The Honorable David Jones to the minimum five year sentence and placed in a one-hundred and twenty day treatment program in the Department of Corrections. If Houseal successfully completes the treatment program, he will be released on probation. Prosecutors sought an eight year prison sentence while the defense requested a suspended imposition of sentence.

During the sentencing, the prosecution played a recording of the undercover buy in which Houseal bragged about the quality of the heroin he was selling, told the undercover officer he could obtain more heroin and offered to sell other drugs. During the sale, Houseal warned the undercover officer to be careful if he gave the heroin to a “banger,” someone who injects heroin, because it could kill them.

Springfield Police Detective Steve Miller testified at the sentencing about the public safety threat posed to our community by the heroin epidemic. The defense argued that Houseal only sold the drugs because of his own addiction. Houseal, however, told probation and parole that he did not believe he needed treatment. The prosecution also argued that the Court should consider the fact that Houseal had previously walked away from probation in two Arizona felony drug cases.

Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson said that while the State sought a greater sentence, he was pleased with the conviction and that Houseal will be going to the Department of Corrections for at least a period of time. Prosecutor Patterson noted that

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v.
Houseal, 1531-CR01561-01

while it is important that we utilize treatment courts to rehabilitate those who are addicted, it is equally important that we send a message to heroin dealers that their crimes will be punished and that their sentence will reflect the threat they pose to lives in our community.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Zachary McFarland. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective Nelson Kibby was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

###