



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO SEXUALLY ASSAULTING FORMER STUDENT

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Ronnie White, 68, of Springfield, MO entered a guilty plea for sexually assaulting a former student. The sexual assaults occurred multiple times between 1991 and 1993 at Parkview High School, where Mr. White was a gym teacher. The victim was between the ages of 14 and 15.

Mr. White was charged with three counts of deviate sexual assault in the first degree. Under the plea agreement, the defendant pleaded guilty to count one with the State dismissing counts two and three. As part of the plea agreement the defendant will be sentenced to seven years in the Missouri Department of Corrections, the maximum number of years for that count. There will now be a sentencing hearing before the Honorable Calvin Holden where the State will oppose probation. Should the Court grant probation the defendant will not be allowed contact with the victim or children under the age of 17. The defendant will not be allowed within 1000 feet of any location where children commonly congregate, and will be required to register as a sex offender.

This plea agreement was reached after extensive consultation with the victim. This resolution allows the defendant to be held accountable while also ensuring that the victim does not have to testify about the abuse in a public courtroom. Judge Holden set a sentencing hearing for 7/29/2016 following a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Nathan Chapman. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Dept. and Detective Chelsea Taylor was the lead investigator assigned to the case. ###