



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REPEAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDER FOUND GUILTY
DESPITE DEFENSE ATTEMPTS TO DISCOURAGE VICTIM'S APPEARANCE

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Brandon Joe Porter, 32, of Springfield, a prior and persistent felon, with a prior domestic violence conviction, was convicted yesterday of three counts of domestic assault and one count of tampering with an automobile following a one day bench trial before the Honorable Calvin Holden. Mr. Patterson stated this case illustrates some of the difficulties his office has to overcome in these prosecutions.

As in many domestic violence prosecutions, the victim, who has children with the defendant, was originally reluctant to assist law enforcement, in part, because of her feelings for the defendant as the father of her children and, in part, because of the history of abuse she had endured at the hands of the defendant. The defendant's public defender attempted to prey upon those feelings by calling the victim on the phone multiple times in the days leading up to the trial in an attempt to subtly intimidate her about the court process so that she would not appear to testify – at one point, telling her they were playing witness chicken; at another point, suggesting to the victim that she should attempt to get a doctor's note to avoid testifying; and finally, suggesting she might have a panic attack on the way to court. Fortunately, these attempts failed and the victim bravely appeared and testified against her abuser.

Judge Holden found the defendant guilty of two counts of the felony of domestic assault in the second degree for biting the victim and striking the victim in the head during an incident on June 7, 2015. The defendant was also found guilty of the felony of tampering with a motor vehicle in the first degree for using a landscaping stone to break out the window of the victim's van. The assault on June 7, 2015 occurred in the front

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yard of the residence in front of the defendant and victim's children. The defendant was also found guilty of the misdemeanor of domestic assault in the third degree for striking the victim in the face as she was driving her van on April 13, 2015.

Because the defendant is a prior and persistent felony offender, he faces up to fifteen years in the Missouri Department of Corrections on each of the three felonies. He faces up to a year in jail on the misdemeanor. The defendant remains in jail in lieu of \$25,000.00 bond pending sentencing. Judge Holden set a sentencing hearing for August 26, 2016, following a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney John Herries. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Dept. and Detective Kelly Patton was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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