

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jury Finds Jefferson City Woman Guilty of Custody Interference

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI (April 30, 2014) – A Cole County Jury found Jefferson City woman, Mary Jane Luebbering guilty of interference with custody today. The case stemmed from a September 13, 2013 incident wherein the defendant picked up her grandson from school and took him to his father in violation of a court order issued by Circuit Judge Daniel Green the previous day. Visiting Circuit Judge Robert Schollmeyer suspended imposition of a sentence and placed Luebbering on two years of probation following the verdict.

“We are all responsible for following the rules and for whatever reason, defendant felt like she did not have to,” argued Cole County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Steven M. Kretzer in closing arguments for the State. During Luebbering’s testimony, the jury, made up of 7 women and 5 men, were told that she didn’t know about the custody order when she picked up the child. However, the State presented evidence that included Luebbering’s presence at the courthouse the previous date, her involvement in the custody dispute up to that point, and her failure after taking the child to answer multiple calls from the child’s mother, the principal and Officer Wansing with the Jefferson City Police Department.