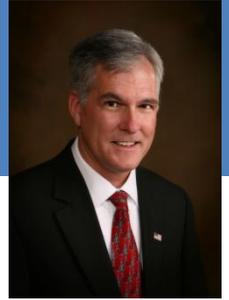


OFFICE OF THE COLE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pettis County jury convicts Cole County man of statutory rape

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI (March 17, 2010) – Cole County Prosecuting Attorney Mark Richardson announced that this morning that a Pettis County jury took about an hour to convict a Cole County man of first degree statutory rape after a two-day trial. A change of venue was ordered from Cole County to Pettis County.

Cole County Assistant Prosecutor Cheryl Nield prosecuted the case for the State. After the verdict, she said, “The jury listened closely to the evidence in this case and reached a just result.” The Cole County Grand Jury previously indicted the defendant February 11, 2009. The indictment alleged that the defendant had sexual intercourse with a female child under the age of 14.