

# OFFICE OF THE COLE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

MARK A. RICHARDSON, PROSECUTOR

## NEWS RELEASE



Cole County Courthouse Annex | 311 East High Street, Third Floor | Jefferson City, Missouri 65101  
Tel. (573) 634.9180 | Fax (573) 634.7797 | Web [www.colecopa.com](http://www.colecopa.com)

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CONTACT**

Randy Dampf, (573) 634-9180

## **Brett Courtney Pleads Guilty to Sexual Assault Crimes**

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI (August 19, 2014) – A Jefferson City man will serve 18 year sentences following his guilty pleas to attempted rape, two counts of forcible sodomy and armed criminal action today. Brett Courtney, former owner of the Tiki Lounge on East High Street was set to be tried by a Boone County jury this week. The case was set to start this morning. Moments before the jury was brought in, counsel for the defendant announced that his client would like to change his not guilty plea to guilty.

The case stemmed from a July 9, 2012 sexual assault on St. Louis Drive in Jefferson City wherein Courtney wore a ski mask and latex gloves and broke into a home. There, he committed the sexual assault of the lone occupant, a 16 year old girl. A break in the case came about 9 days later when Detective Jason Miles, who was leading the investigation, was working in his capacity as a SWAT team operator. Detective Miles (whom has since been promoted to Sergeant) made the connection to the sexual assault when he, along with the SWAT team, were called upon to make entry of Brett Courtney's home on Indian Meadows Drive after it was reported that he was suicidal and had barricaded the residence. This residence was a short distance from the scene of the sexual assault. Inside, several items related to the sexual assault were seen in the open and a search warrant was obtained. Once that connection was made and Courtney was arrested, DNA samples were used to link Courtney to the crime.

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Steven M. Kretzer prosecuted the case for the State of Missouri and was set to try the case this week prior to the plea. He pointed to the courageousness of the victim, the diligent efforts of Detective (Sgt.) Jason Miles, and the hard work of many others in law enforcement as the main reasons why Courtney changed his mind about taking the

case to trial. RACS (Rape and Abuse Crisis Services) advocacy services were also instrumental in working on this case by maintaining contact and providing services to the victim and her family. The victim and her family were pleased with the outcome and happy to know that if Courtney is ever released, he will be subject to lifetime supervision with mandatory GPS monitoring. Additionally, under the sentencing guidelines, Courtney will have to serve at least 85% of his sentences before being eligible for parole.