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Office of the District Attorney
Monroe County, Wisconsin

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For Immediate Release
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Altoona Man Convicted of Child Sex Crimes

[SPARTA WI] Today, Monroe County District Attorney Kevin D. Croninger announced that on September 15, 2023, a Monroe County jury convicted 44 year old, Eric L. Wirth of eight charges including, Repeated Sexual Assault of Same Child, Use of a Computer to Facilitate a Child Sex Crime, Cause a Child to View Sexual Activity, Exposing a Child to Harmful Material, two counts of Sexual Exploitation of a Child, Sex with a Child Age 16 or Older and Possession of Cocaine. The convictions came after a three day jury trial. The charges against Wirth stem from conduct that occurred between May of 2017 and July of 2021 in which Wirth used children for his own sexual gratification.

Several other counts against Wirth were dismissed without prejudice, meaning they can be refiled in another jurisdiction, after new information was uncovered indicating that the proper venue for the dismissed counts was outside of Monroe County. Wirth is presumed innocent of the dismissed counts.

After three days of trial, the jury deliberated for approximately two hours before reaching their verdicts. Monroe County District Attorney Kevin Croninger stated, "We are grateful for the attention the jury paid to this serious matter. This case involved multiple perverse actions by the defendant. We know that having to listen to evidence of these perverse acts can be very difficult on jurors. The jurors in this matter paid close attention to these difficult facts and rendered just and true verdicts on these charges."

The prosecution of the case was handled by Monroe County District Attorney Kevin Croninger support and assistance by the staff of the Monroe County District Attorney's Office.

The investigation of the case was led by Detective John Brose of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, with assistance from City of Sparta Police Chief Emilee Nottestad and Detective Andrew Kuen, formerly of the City of Sparta Police Department and currently of the Monroe County District Attorney's Office.

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Croninger praised the work of Detective Brose and all officers involved, “This is a case that involved numerous perverse acts by the defendant. The officers involved demonstrated the highest levels of professional integrity and investigative skill in procuring the facts that proved the defendant was guilty of the charges submitted to the jury. Without this high level of professional integrity and investigative skill, these convictions would not have been possible.”

Following the jury’s verdicts, Monroe County Circuit Court Judge Todd L. Ziegler, who presided over the case, revoked Wirth’s bond and remanding him to custody pending sentencing.

Sentencing date has not been set yet. Wirth faces over 150 years of prison at sentencing.



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