

News Release

For Immediate Release
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Contact: Naomi Nation
naomi@scsolicitor9.org
(843) 958-1945

Mount Pleasant Man Convicted of Sexually Assaulting Girl for a period of over a year

Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that Erick Alberto Arroyo, age 54, d/o/b 04/03/58, was convicted on Friday, July 13, 2012, of committing two counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor 2nd Degree and Lewd Act Upon a Minor. After 5 days of testimony, the jury deliberated for approximately 3 1/2 hours before returning the guilty verdict. Judge J.C. Nicholson delayed sentencing and ordered the defendant to submit to a psychological evaluation to determine whether the defendant should be considered a sexual predator. Once the evaluation is complete, the defendant will be sentenced. The defendant was represented by defense attorney Andy Savage.

A conviction for Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor 2nd Degree carries a maximum of 20 years in prison and Lewd Act Upon a Minor Child carries a maximum sentence of 15 years.

Assistant Solicitor Elizabeth Gordon prosecuted the case against Arroyo whose victim was a relative of the defendant. In September of 2009, the thirteen year old girl disclosed that Arroyo had been sexually assaulting her for over a year. The child finally revealed the chronic abuse after the victim's mother caught the defendant on top of her daughter. The child, now sixteen years old, testified in the courtroom as to how the defendant began the abuse by telling her he wanted to teach her about sex so that she would not have to experiment with boys. The abuse progressed from fondling to intercourse.

Gordon praised the outcome. "This victim had a lot to lose by coming forward. Many of her family members turned their backs on her when she was finally able to tell of the abuse she endured at the hands of a family member that everyone admired. He was an engineer, a retired Navy Officer. It took a great deal of courage to confront the man who had done this to her and to have to testify in great detail in front a room full of strangers about abuse that she so desperately would prefer to forget. It was obvious the victim was telling the truth, and I am very pleased that the jury could see that."