

PRESS RELEASE

December 17, 2008

To be released immediately

SEX OFFENDER CONVICTED IN BOONE COUNTY

Boone County Judge Fernando Engelsma found Jeffrey Waites guilty of three counts of Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse to a fourteen year old girl following a bench trial that concluded on December 16, 2008.

Judge Engelsma set Waites' next court date for 9 a.m. on February 11, 2009, for sentencing. Waites faces a sentence of between 3 to 14 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections with 4 years of Mandatory Supervised Release and is ineligible for probation. This sentencing range is enhanced because Waites was convicted on a prior offense of Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse for which he served a prison sentence.

Boone County State's Attorney Michelle Courier wants to thank her Assistant State's Attorneys Sal LoPiccolo and Ann Switzer for the hard work they put into this case. Courier commented, "This is exactly the type of case that needed to be tried. We had a child as a victim and a defendant who has been sitting in our jail for 481 days. Justice needed to be served, and I am pleased that we were able to bring this matter to trial within the first two weeks of my administration."