



**CHRISTIAN COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

**AMY J. FITE, PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

Phone: (417) 581-7915 | Fax: (417) 581-7918

[www.christiancountyprosecutor.net](http://www.christiancountyprosecutor.net)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: AMY FITE  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
(417) 581-7915**

**DATE: JUNE 11, 2012**

**RE: RAYMOND REYNOLDS SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT**

OZARK, MO – The Christian County Prosecuting Attorney's Office announced today that on June 8, 2012 Raymond Reynolds; dob: 12/4/1955 formerly of Ozark, Missouri was sentenced by the Honorable Judge Mark Orr to life imprisonment in the Department of Corrections. On January 18, 2012, in front of the Honorable Judge Orr, Raymond Reynolds entered an Alford plea with no plea agreement to one count of Statutory Sodomy in the First of a Child less than 14 charged as occurring on or about August 17, 2003.

At the time of his plea on January 18, 2012, Raymond Reynolds had previously pled guilty with a plea agreement on January 17, 2006 to six counts of child molestation in the 1<sup>st</sup> degree. Those counts were charged in five separate felony cases that involved five separate victims under the age of 10. Reynolds is serving an eight year sentence on each of those counts concurrently per the plea agreement. After his incarceration on the child molestation charges, there was a new disclosure of prior ongoing sexual abuse involving a five-year-old child. Following an investigation, charges were filed on July 18, 2006 which ultimately concluded with Raymond Reynolds' plea on January, 18, 2012 and sentencing on June 8, 2012.

Amy Fite stated, "While it took nearly six years for the conclusion of this of case, this is both an example of where the wheels of justice moved slowly, and I am glad it is also an example of where, ultimately, justice was served."

The range of punishment for Statutory Sodomy in the First Degree of a child less than 14 is life imprisonment or a term of years not less than five years. Currently, for this type of charge the Department of Corrections calculates a life sentence as 30 years. This is a charge that requires a defendant serve 85% of the sentence before being eligible for parole.

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