



CHRISTIAN COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

**RE: CHRISTIAN COUNTY JURY FINDS MICHAEL D. BURGE GUILTY OF
STATUTORY SODOMY 1ST DEGREE OF A CHILD LESS THAN 12 AND CHILD
MOLESTATION 1ST Degree**

OZARK, MO – The Christian County Prosecuting Attorney's Offices announces that MICHAEL D. BURGE DOB: 12/16/1959 formerly of Ballwin, Missouri was found guilty on September 19, 2018 by a Christian County jury of statutory sodomy 1st degree of a child less than 12 and child molestation 1st degree. A jury trial commenced before the Honorable Judge Jennifer Growcock on June 17, 2018 and concluded on June 19, 2018.

The jury retired to deliberate at approximately 6:44 p.m. and shortly before 10:00 p.m. returned a guilty verdict on each count. Formal sentencing will be scheduled before the Honorable Judge Jennifer Growcock.

The range of punishment for statutory sodomy first degree of a child less than 12 is a term not less than ten years in the Missouri Department of Corrections or a life sentence. The range of punishment for the child molestation in the first degree – class B felony is a term of 5 to 15 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections. In this case, the defendant was alleged, and found to be, a predatory sexual offender, and therefore is subject to an enhanced range of punishment for count I and II. The enhanced sentence for each count is a life sentence in the Missouri Department of Corrections with eligibility for parole. Per statute, the court shall set the term of years the person must serve prior to becoming eligible for parole. Per statute, the term of years shall be any numbers of years to which the person could have been sentenced if the person was not found to be a predatory sexual offender. In no event will a person found to be a predatory sexual offender receive final discharge from parole.

The investigation of this case was handled by Christian County Sheriff's Office. The case was prosecuted by First Assistant Kristen Tuohy. Other members of the Prosecuting Attorney's office assigned to this case include: Shannon Stephens, Victim Advocate; Suzanne Frakes, Legal Assistant; Amy Zacek-Smith, Investigator.