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RENSSELAER COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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**MISSOURI MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ATTEMPTED RAPE
IN THE FIRST DEGREE**

Rensselaer County District Attorney Joel E. Ablove announced that on Friday, September 23rd, Robert Smith, age 34, of Missouri, pled guilty to one (1) count of Attempted Rape in the First Degree, a class C violent felony. Smith also pled guilty to one (1) count of Reckless Endangerment in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, on a separate indictment. The defendant resided in Troy during the commission of the offenses contained in the indictments.

Smith faced 18 charges relating to various instances of sexual abuse of a minor. This case was investigated by Troy Police and the START Children's Center, as well as Rensselaer County Child Protective Services. Prior to his arrest on these charges, the defendant fled to Missouri, and was returned to Rensselaer County following the issuance of a Governor's Warrant.

As a result of the plea, the defendant will be sentenced to four (4) years in state prison, to be followed by twelve (12) years of post-release supervision, and one (1) year of local incarceration on the misdemeanor conviction, which will run concurrently. He will also be required to register as a sex offender. Smith is scheduled to be sentenced on October 20th, at the Rensselaer County Courthouse before the Honorable Debra J. Young.

The case against Smith's wife and co-defendant, Heather Smith, is scheduled for trial on October 3rd. Heather Smith is facing 10 counts relating to the sexual abuse of a minor, with the top charge being Criminal Sex Act in the First Degree.

Ablove said, "This young victim was abused and traumatized by a sexual predator. We're glad that this plea will send him to prison without the need for her to testify in court."

Assistant District Attorneys Alaina Finan and Carl Rosenkranz prosecuted the case.

Defendant: Robert R. Smith

DOB: 09/06/1958

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