



Office of the County Attorney

Jenna M. Peterson
Redwood County Attorney

Joseph M. Sanow
Rudolph P. Dambeck
Assistant County Attorneys

PRESS RELEASE

January 19, 2017

JURY FINDS RICHFIELD MAN GUILTY OF TAMPERING WITH WITNESS, CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT, THREATS OF VIOLENCE, DOMESTIC ASSAULT, DRUG OFFENSES

A Redwood County District Court jury found a Richfield man guilty of Aggravated First Degree Witness Tampering, one count of Criminal Sexual Conduct in the Third Degree, one count of Threats of Violence, two counts of Domestic Assault, one count of Possession of a Controlled Substance, one count of Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and one count of Possession of a Small Amount of Marijuana, County Attorney Jenna Peterson announced Friday.

The jury deliberated for most of the afternoon and into the evening on Thursday before delivering the guilty verdicts around 6 p.m. Thursday night.

Charles Earl Strother, 40, was found guilty for the rape and assault of a female victim that occurred in August 2017.

According to the criminal complaint and testimony at trial, the assaults in this case spanned the course of one week in early August 2017. Jenna M. Peterson, Redwood County Attorney, who prosecuted the case, said "The defendant hit the victim and raped her numerous times over the course of that horrific week. He brought drugs into her home and threatened to kill her and her children if she told anyone."

The victim was eventually able to escape Strother by fleeing from her home with her two children and contacting law enforcement. The defendant was apprehended by the Lamberton Police Department a few hours later.

Strother will be sentenced February 26th and the Redwood County Attorney's Office is expected to request a lengthy sentence due to the convictions constituting multiple offenses over the course of that week.