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## PRESS RELEASE

February 7, 2023

### JURY FINDS REDWOOD FALLS MAN GUILTY OF FAILURE TO REGISTER AS A PREDATORY OFFENDER

A Redwood County District Court jury found Russell George Guy O'Brien, 25, of Redwood Falls, guilty of one count of Failure to Register as a Predatory Offender, County Attorney Jenna Peterson announced Tuesday.

The jury deliberated for approximately a half hour on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, before delivering the guilty verdict around 11:30 a.m.

According to the criminal complaint, evidence, and testimony at trial, O'Brien is a person required to register as a predatory offender pursuant to Minnesota statute. On September 15, 2020, at approximately 9:30 p.m., officers conducted a compliance check at the residence O'Brien reported to authorities as his primary address. The purpose of the compliance check was to verify O'Brien was upholding his duty to register as a predatory offender. When officers arrived at the reported primary address within the City of Redwood Falls, the homeowner informed officers O'Brien did not currently reside at the residence and had not been living there since September 6, 2020. The homeowner also stated he had not seen O'Brien since September 6, 2020, and did not know where he was currently residing.

Jenna Peterson, Redwood County Attorney, who prosecuted the case, told the jury in her closing argument, "You simply cannot take off for days, weeks, or months at a time and hide under the guise of living at your primary address by leaving items there or keeping it as your mailing address. You are required to actually live there. That is the purpose of the duty to register so that at any given time law enforcement officials know where you are."

O'Brien will be sentenced on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the Redwood County Courthouse.