



Office of the Washington County Attorney

Kevin Magnuson, County Attorney

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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David Powers guilty of kidnapping and rape

STILLWATER, Minn. – County Attorney Kevin Magnuson announced today that after a five-day trial, with Judge Helen Brosnahan presiding, a Washington County Jury returned a guilty verdict on all counts. David Powers, of New Auburn, Minnesota, was found guilty of Criminal Sexual Conduct in the First Degree, Kidnapping, and Domestic Assault by Strangulation.

Powers had testified in his defense on Friday but when the trial resumed on Monday, he failed to return to be cross-examined by prosecutor Scott Haldeman. At that time, Haldeman asked the court for an arrest warrant for Powers. Defense attorney Bruce Rivers, who appeared on behalf of David Powers, informed the court that he did not know the whereabouts of his client. At the prosecutor's request, Judge Brosnahan issued a bench warrant and continued with the trial. County Attorney Kevin Magnuson stated "Powers will be arrested and brought back to court, and I plan to ask for a significant upward departure from the presumptive sentence under the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines. This office places a high priority on prosecuting predators engaged in these types of violent offenses and ensuring the safety of the public.

The maximum sentence for the Criminal Sexual Conduct in the First-Degree conviction is 30 years, 40 years for the amended Kidnapping conviction, and 3 years for the Domestic Assault by Strangulation conviction. County Attorney Kevin Magnuson stated, "We know how difficult it is for victims to come forward, testify in a public courtroom, and relive these horrible events. We are grateful for the victim's courage in testifying. I want to thank the prosecuting attorney, Scott Haldeman, and the trial team for their commitment and skill in presenting this case to the jury. I also want to thank the Washington County Sheriff's Office for a complete and thorough investigation."

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