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* * * M E D I A R E L E A S E * * *

Today an Isabella County jury deliberated 90 minutes before returning guilty verdicts against a Mt. Pleasant man for the sexual abuse of an 8 year old child. Alan Corbin, age 46, was convicted of five counts of criminal sexual conduct in the first degree and five counts of criminal sexual conduct in the second degree, relative to abuse that occurred during the summers of 2006 and 2007. The victim of the assaults had been visiting friends of Corbin's during that time.

During the three day trial, the prosecution presented not only the testimony of the the victim, but that of three other witnesses, who testified as to sexual assaults committed by Corbin against them. These assaults began as long as 26 years ago in Tennessee. Witnesses of these assaults were brought back to testify from Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee. Jurors also heard a videotaped statement made by Corbin to police, in which he admitted sexual contact with the victims. He indicated that he knew it was wrong, but that the victims, in his opinion, initiated the contact. His victims were between the ages of six and ten at the time of the assaults.

Corbin, formerly a physician's assistant in Mt. Pleasant, will be sentenced by Isabella County Trial Court Judge Mark H. Duthie on March 7, 2008, at 10:15. The maximum penalty for criminal sexual conduct in the first degree is up to life in prison, and for criminal sexual conduct in the second degree, up to 15 years in prison. Because several of the convictions for 1st degree criminal sexual conduct involve assaults which occurred in 2007, the penalty to be applied to those convictions mandate a minimum sentence of at least 25 years in prison. This mandatory minimum sentence resulted from the passage of Public Act 169 of 2006, which was part of a nationwide legislative response to serious crimes committed against children, and commonly known as "Jessica's Law" in consideration of Jessica Lundsford, who was abducted and killed in Florida in 2005.

In commenting on the verdict, Prosecutor Larry Burdick wished to recognize the courage of the four victims who endured the daunting experience of testifying in court about their abuse. He also wished to acknowledge the hard work of Detective Dan Denslow of the Isabella County Sheriff's Department who spearheaded the investigation, and Senior Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Risa Scully, who has supervised the case the past seven months, and prosecuted the trial this week.

Larry J. Burdick