



Genesee County Prosecutor's Office

David Leyton, Prosecutor



BURTON MAN FOUND GUILTY OF CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT INVOLVING TEENAGE GIRLS AT CHURCH ORGANIZED SLEEPOVER

FLINT, Michigan -- A jury has convicted a 37-year-old Burton man on three counts of criminal sexual conduct second degree related to his actions at a backyard camping sleepover at a home in Mt. Morris Township last Memorial Day weekend said Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton.

Prosecutor Leyton charged Mark R. Rutherford with four counts of criminal sexual second degree conduct and one count of criminal sexual conduct fourth degree involving three teenage girls.

Rutherford was convicted on two counts of criminal sexual conduct second degree involving a then 13-year old victim and one count of criminal sexual conduct second degree involving a then 14-year old girl. The jury found him not guilty on one count of criminal sexual conduct involving the 13-year old female and not guilty on one count of criminal sexual conduct fourth degree involving a then 17-year old female.

The sleepover was organized through a church group and Rutherford was acting as one of the adult chaperones for the teenagers.

“This man was in a position of trust and authority over these teenage girls and he took advantage of the situation for his own immoral and illegal purposes,” said Prosecutor Leyton. “What he did was deplorable and he will pay the price for his actions.”

Criminal sexual conduct second degree is a felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison. A sentencing date is scheduled before Genesee County Circuit Court Judge Judith Fullerton later this month.

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