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## ATTORNEY GENERAL MADIGAN KEEPS SPRINGFIELD SEX OFFENDER OFF STREETS

Springfield — Attorney General Lisa Madigan has won the battle to keep a Springfield sex offender in custody as a sexually violent person. A Sangamon County jury today found that Kenneth Seidler, 56, of Springfield will remain in the care and custody of the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) for treatment. Seidler had been scheduled for release from the Illinois Dept. of Corrections (IDOC). Madigan's office handles state prosecutions of cases to keep sexually violent persons in custody under the Sexually Violent Persons Commitment Act, following completion of their sentences.

"I am pleased that we are able to protect the public by keeping Mr. Seidler in custody," said Madigan. "This man has committed terrible crimes, and it is our goal to make sure he receives treatment in a secure setting."

Seidler was convicted in 1984 in Sangamon County and has been serving a 40-year sentence in the IDOC for the horrific rape of a woman in the presence of her two young children. In March 2006, Madigan's office filed a petition for commitment as Seidler was due for release from the IDOC. He has been detained at the IDHS Rushville Treatment and Detention Facility and today was ordered by Judge John Belz to be returned there to the custody of IDHS until a hearing is held in October where final decisions on the details of his treatment will be determined.

To be committed under the Sexually Violent Persons Commitment Act, a person must have been convicted of a sexually violent offense and exhibit a mental disorder. Additionally, prosecutors must prove that the offender is likely to commit future acts of sexual violence if released from custody. Once committed to IDHS, offenders are reevaluated on a regular basis to determine if they continue to meet the criteria for commitment as a sexually violent person.

Since enactment of the Sexually Violent Person Act in 1998, 223 convicted sex offenders have been committed as sexually violent persons. Madigan's office currently is seeking commitment of an additional 146 sex offenders around the state of Illinois who might otherwise be released from prison.

Assistant Attorneys General Gabe Grosboll and Robert Hollinshead handled the case for Madigan's Sexually Violent Persons Bureau.

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