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September 16, 2016

MADIGAN: CONVICTED SEX OFFENDER RULED SEXUALLY VIOLENT

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today announced that a Cook County jury found a registered sex offender a Sexually Violent Person (SVP) following a two-day trial.

Following the jury's decision Tuesday, Cook County Circuit Court Judge Steven G. Watkins ruled that Johnny Westbrook, 61, of Robbins, Ill., must remain in the custody of the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) for treatment.

"This offender has a long history of committing violent acts against women, and he cannot be allowed to reenter society," Madigan said.

Under the Sexually Violent Persons Act, Madigan's office prosecutes cases seeking to commit offenders to the custody of IDHS as SVPs. To be committed under the act, a person must have been convicted of a sexually violent offense and suffer from 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 re-evaluated on a regular basis to determine if they continue to meet the criteria for commitment as a sexually violent person.

Following the judge's verdict, Westbrook was returned to the IDHS SVP Treatment and Detention Facility in Rushville, Ill. Westbrook's most recent conviction was for aggravated criminal sexual assault in 1985, for which he was sentenced to 60 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. Westbrook's previous convictions include attempted rape, rape, unlawful restraint, aggravated kidnapping, armed violence, armed robbery and burglary.

Since the law's enactment, over 400 convicted sex offenders have been committed pursuant to the Sexually Violent Persons Act. Madigan's office currently has an additional 191 petitions filed with courts around Illinois seeking commitment of offenders who otherwise would be released from prison.

Assistant Attorneys General Alexander Glenn and David Kalicki are handling the case for Madigan's Sexually Violent Persons Bureau.

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