



March 29, 2017

MADIGAN: CONVICTED SEX OFFENDER RULED SEXUALLY VIOLENT

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today announced that a Cook County judge ruled a registered sex offender is a Sexually Violent Person (SVP) following a jury trial.

Following the jury's decision, Cook County Circuit Court Judge Steven G. Watkins ruled that Craig Childress, 50, of Kentucky, must remain in the custody of the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) for treatment. Childress was returned to the IDHS SVP Treatment and Detention Facility in downstate Rushville, Ill.

"This offender has a long history of committing violent attacks on women, and he should not be released back into the community," Madigan said.

In 1987, Childress was a member of the U.S. Navy when he was convicted by a Quebec civilian court for raping a woman he met in a bar, which resulted in Childress receiving a bad conduct discharge in lieu of court martial. Within three months of his discharge, Childress attacked and threatened to rape a woman in Kentucky and hours later Childress sexually assaulted another woman after coercing her into his apartment. Childress was convicted in 1989 on charges of rape, attempted sodomy, burglary and unlawful imprisonment stemming from those attacks and was sentenced to 10 years in the Kentucky Department of Corrections.

In 1994, Childress was released from prison and was charged less than two years later with attacking a Chicago woman while he was visiting a friend. Childress was convicted of attempted aggravated criminal sexual assault and sentenced to 29 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Under the Sexually Violent Persons Commitment Act, Madigan's office prosecutes cases seeking to commit offenders to the custody of IDHS. To be committed under the Act, a person must have been convicted of a sexually violent offense and suffer from a mental disorder. Prosecutors must also 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.

Assistant Attorney General Andrea Kirch and Bureau Chief Joelle Marasco handled the case for Madigan's Sexually Violent Persons Bureau.

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