



August 18, 2017

MADIGAN: CONVICTED SEX OFFENDER RULED SEXUALLY VIOLENT

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today announced that a Peoria County jury found a registered sex offender a Sexually Violent Person (SVP).

Peoria County Circuit Court Judge Kevin W. Lyons ruled earlier this week that Branden Erwin, 39, of Peoria, must remain in the custody of the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) for treatment. Erwin was returned to the IDHS SVP Treatment and Detention Facility in downstate Rushville, Ill.

"This offender has a history of assaulting young girls, and I commend the jury for its decision to ensure that he remains in custody," Madigan said.

Among Erwin's convictions, most recently in 2013, he was convicted of aggravated criminal sexual abuse and sentenced to six years in prison for raping a 15-year-old girl.

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.

Deputy Criminal Bureau Chief Robert Hollinshead and Assistant Attorney General Barry Schaefer handled the case for Madigan's Sexually Violent Persons Bureau.

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