



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRINGFIELD MAN SENTENCED FOR TAKING 13-YEAR-OLD GIRL TO NEW MEXICO FOR SEX

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield man was sentenced in federal court today for transporting a minor from Mountain Grove, Mo., to New Mexico with the intent to have sex with her.

Steve Curtis Spangler, 46, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to five years and 11 months in federal prison without parole.

On July 26, 2002, **Spangler** pleaded guilty to a federal indictment that charges him with transporting a minor in interstate commerce for the purpose of engaging in illegal sexual activity. A federal grand jury in Springfield returned that indictment on February 28, 2002.

The girl, whom Graves said was 13 years old at the time of the offense, told an investigator that in December, 2001, **Spangler** traveled to Mountain Grove to pick her up. **Spangler** and the girl then traveled to Eudora, Jefferson City and Kansas City, Mo., and then on to Denver, Colo., and Albuquerque, N.M. On December 20, 2001, Graves said, **Spangler** was arrested and the girl was taken into protective custody at the Joy Junction homeless shelter in Albuquerque after a boy staying at the shelter reported seeing the two kissing. **Spangler** and the girl had registered at the shelter as brother and sister.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rose A. Barber. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Mountain Grove, Mo., Police Department, and the Bernalillo County, New Mexico, Sheriff's Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States

Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow