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Man Found Guilty of Patronizing a Person for Prostitution



ALBANY, NY - District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that RUSSELL BLAIR, 33, of West Sand Lake, NY, was found guilty after a jury trial of (1) Count of Patronizing a Person for Prostitution in the Second Degree, a Class E Felony, before Honorable Roger D. McDonough in Albany County Supreme Court this afternoon.

After thorough deliberation and review of the evidence presented during the trial, the jury found that on December 2, 2017, in the Town of Colonie, BLAIR responded to a Craig's List Ad and engaged in a telephone conversation with a person he believed to be a nineteen year old girl and agreed to pay a fee of \$200.00 to engage in sexual conduct with her and a fourteen year old

girl. The person on the other end of the telephone conversation was a member of law enforcement.

After the verdict, the Court released BLAIR on continued bail. BLAIR faces up to 1 ½ to 4 years in State Prison when sentenced on May 17, 2019. Due to the nature of the incident, BLAIR will have to register as a sexual offender upon release.

Assistant District Attorneys Ariel Fallon and Jennifer McCanney of the Special Victims Unit handled the prosecution of this case.

For more information please contact Cecilia Walsh at (518) 275-4710 or cecilia.walsh@albanycountyny.gov

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