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**Curtis “Chris” Benenhaley Effectually Sentenced to 24 Years in Prison  
on Charges Including Statutory Sodomy and Incest**

*March 27, 2025 – Clinton, MO* – Mr. Curtis “Chris” Benenhaley received multiple sentences from Circuit Judge Brandon Baker, which have an effectual total term of 24 years in prison. Mr. Benenhaley received 12 years in prison each on counts 1 and 3 (both charges of Statutory Sodomy 1<sup>st</sup> Degree) which the Court ordered to be served consecutive to each other. Mr. Benenhaley also received sentences on the remaining incest and tampering charges and those will be concurrent to counts 1 and 3.

Per statute, Mr. Benenhaley will be required to serve at least 85 percent of the sentences in this case before being eligible for parole and will receive credit for the time he served in the Polk County Jail prior to sentencing.

This case was prosecuted by Polk County Prosecutor Keaton Ashlock in Henry County on a change of venue from Polk County. For more information about the trial, please see press release from October 29, 2024, attached as page 2.

Case Number: 24HE-CR00015 - ST V CURTIS C BENENHALEY

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**Polk County Prosecuting Attorney Secures Conviction Against  
Curtis "Chris" Benenhaley Jr. on Charges Including Statutory Sodomy and Incest**

*October 29, 2024 – Clinton, MO* – Today, Polk County Prosecuting Attorney Keaton Ashlock announced a conviction in the case against Curtis “Chris” Benenhaley Jr., who was found guilty on all charges after a two-day jury trial held at the Henry County Courthouse following a change of venue. The jury returned verdicts on five serious charges, including two counts of statutory sodomy in the first degree, two counts of incest, and one count of tampering with a victim in a felony prosecution.

The convictions stem from incidents that took place between June 2021 and January 2022 at a residence in Humansville, Missouri, where the defendant engaged in “deviate sexual intercourse” with a victim under the age of 12 who was his descendant by blood. Benenhaley then threatened to kill the victim’s family members if she reported the offenses.

The trial commenced with the state presenting evidence on the first day, with closing arguments and deliberation on the following day. The prosecution utilized the 2014 Missouri constitutional amendment (Article I, Section 18(c)), which permits evidence of prior criminal sexual offenses to be presented in court to establish a pattern or propensity in similar cases. Evidence of Benenhaley’s previous 2005 conviction in Vernon County for statutory rape and incest was thus presented, aiding the jury in understanding the defendant's established history.

The statutory sodomy charges carry the potential of life sentences for each count, and the convictions for incest and victim tampering could result in an additional combined fifteen-year sentence. The date for sentencing has yet to be announced.

We are grateful to the jury for their service and dedication to justice and to the law enforcement professionals who ensured a thorough investigation. Our hope is that today’s verdict provides some measure of closure and relief for the victim and their family and prevents this defendant from committing offenses against any other children.

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