



**TANEY COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DATE: MAY 19, 2008**

**JAMES BERRYHILL SENTENCED TO TWELVE YEARS FOR SODOMY**

FORSYTH, MO – JAMES BERRYHILL, dob: 03/09/1972 of Taneyville, Missouri was sentenced last Wednesday to twelve (12) years in the Missouri Department of Corrections by Taney County Circuit Judge Mark Orr for the unclassified felony of forcible sodomy. In April of last year JAMES BERRYHILL forced a coworker to have deviate sexual intercourse after a party in the early morning hours on Strawberry Lane in Forsyth.

Taney County Prosecuting Attorney Jeffrey M. Merrell was satisfied with the result, “without the tremendous efforts of the investigators of the Taney County Sheriff’s Department we would not have been able to remove another violent sex offender from our community. I am happy we have been able to bring closure and justice to a young woman that has been through so much with this incident.”

JAMES BERRYHILL previously entered a stand-up or open plea of guilty with the Court on March 21, 2008. Without a plea agreement from the State JAMES BERRYHILL faced the entire range of punishment of five (5) to thirty (30) years, or life imprisonment for the unclassified felony of forcible sodomy. Forcible sodomy is considered a dangerous felony in the State of Missouri and as a result JAMES BERRYHILL will not be eligible for parole until a minimum eighty-five (85) percent of his sentence is completed.

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