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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MICHAEL ERB FOUND GUILTY OF CHILD MOLESTATION IN THE FIRST
DEGREE**

FORSYTH MO – Taney County Prosecuting Attorney, Jeffrey M. Merrell announced today that MICHAEL L. ERB, dob: 8/11/1968 of Hollister, Missouri was found guilty of two counts of child molestation in the first degree. On December 1, 2009 a bench trial was held in Christian County on a change of venue motion filed by the defense. Judge Mark Orr announced the guilty verdict today at the Christian County Courthouse.

Between May 1 and November 15, 2005 the defendant subjected two separate victims under the age of fourteen to sexual contact during sleepovers at his house in Hollister, Missouri. The Hollister Police Department investigated the allegations and the forensic interviews of the minor children were performed by the Child Advocacy Center in Branson West.

In response to the guilty verdict, Taney County Prosecuting Attorney, Jeffrey M. Merrell stated “[t]he victims and their families have been waiting a very long time for this result, and I hope that this guilty verdict allows them some closure for the victimization that they suffered.”

Formal sentencing is set for March 19, 2010. Each count of the class B felony of child molestation in the first degree has a range of punishment of five (5) to fifteen (15) years in the Missouri Department of Corrections.

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