

# Millard trial set for Dec. 12

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Reid Millard's trial on a statutory sodomy charge will be held Dec. 12 in Jefferson City.

Three days were set aside for the jury trial during pre-trial discussions last week with Circuit Judge Robert L. Koffman of Sedalia, who will preside over the case.

Another pre-trial conference was set to be held in Koffman's chambers in Sedalia Nov. 14. Pending motions will be taken up then.

Cole County Prosecutor Bill Tackett said Saturday his office had urged Koffman to hold the trial in August.

But various scheduling conflicts pushed the trial date back to December.

"Judge Koffman made it extremely clear that there will be no continu-

ances" from the December date, Tackett said. "He allowed the defense their request for time to retest evidence — specifically the DNA."

Millard, 46, was charged last September following complaints from a 16-year-old boy that the Jefferson City businessman had improper sexual contact with the boy at Millard's Apple Creek Farm, near Centertown, on Aug. 28, 2005.

If convicted of the felony charge, Millard would have to be listed as a registered sex offender, and he could be sentenced to a term of up to seven years in prison.

At a 90-minute preliminary hearing before Senior Judge Byron Kinder on Dec. 14, the teenager — who has not been identified because he is a juvenile — testified he spent Aug. 28 with Millard, traveling to Columbia for

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clothes shopping and then to the auto races in Lebanon, before accepting an invitation to spend the night at the farm.

The teen said he was fully clothed when he fell asleep in Millard's bed, while Millard was in a hot tub.

But he said he woke up the next morning with Millard laying behind him, rubbing his lower back before reaching around to touch him in a sexual way.

Millard has not testified in court, but reportedly has acknowledged the trips to police, while also telling officials that he and the teen only watched cartoons together for about 30 minutes, before Millard went to another room.

Evidence entered in the preliminary hearing included a tape-recorded phone call between Millard and the teen, and DNA from a quilt and several articles of clothing.

Prosecutors charged Millard based on a Highway Patrol

investigation that was made at Cole County Sheriff Greg White's request, following the teen's reporting the incident to the sheriff's office.

The state Supreme Court named Koffman, the presiding judge of the 18th Circuit in Pettis and Cooper counties, to preside over the Millard case in January.

The appointment followed the prosecutors' December request for a change of judge, after Millard's case was assigned to Cole County Circuit Judge Thomas J. Brown III.