

Jefferson City man convicted of molesting his daughter

A Cole County jury on Tuesday convicted Barry Millington, 31, Jefferson City, of molesting his daughter, who will turn 8 next month.

Jurors deliberated only 45 minutes before issuing the conviction and recommending Millington spend seven years in prison.

Final sentencing will come after the completion of a pre-sentence investigation.

Bill Tackett, the assistant Cole County prosecutor who argued the case, said it was unusual because, "In most child sexual abuse cases, you're dealing with, more likely, an extended relative or a stepfather."

Millington's charge involved his biological daughter, alleging abuse over a three-year period beginning when she was 4.

"We don't see nearly as many natural fathers as we do extended family members or step-fathers," Tackett said.

Jurors heard from the victim and from the defendant during the one day trial before Circuit Judge Byron Kinder.

Tackett said he also used a state law allowing other experts to testify, after the girl changed her story "after being mistakenly placed back in the home."

The recommended seven-year sentence was the maximum allowed under state law.

"I asked for the max, which is something we don't always do, obviously," Tackett said. "It's something you reserve for this kind of crime."