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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dayton Man Guilty in Murder for Hire and Rape of a Child Cases

State v. John Friend, III, 2014-CR-3505 and 2015-CR-343

DAYTON, OH (09/21/2015) – Prosecutor Mat Heck, Jr. announced today that 41-year-old **John P. Friend, III**, of Dayton has been found guilty of conspiracy to commit murder and of raping a child under age 10.

On October 21, 2014, the defendant was indicted in case 2014-CR-3505 on counts of Rape of a Child under 10 years of age and Gross Sexual Imposition of a child under 13.

While the defendant was in custody, awaiting trial, he made contact with a hit man to have the child victim and the child's father killed. On March 11, 2015, the defendant was indicted on Conspiracy to Commit Murder counts.

Today the defendant pled guilty, and was found guilty as charged, to two counts of conspiracy to commit murder, two counts of rape of a child under 10 and two counts of gross sexual imposition of a child under 13.

Prosecutor Heck added, "This defendant's actions are simply horrendous. The defendant planned to have the victim and the witness to his earlier crimes killed, hoping the charges would be dismissed."

The defendant faces a minimum sentence of 15 years-to-life in prison and a possible sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole. He is scheduled to be sentenced on October 6, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

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For more information, contact Greg Flannagan, Public Information Officer, at 937.225.5610 or flannagan@mcchio.org