



OFFICE OF
STATE ATTORNEY
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

August 27, 2021

PRESS RELEASE

Ginger Bowden Madden, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida, announces that on August 26, 2021, Matthew Wayne Niau was found guilty by an Escambia County jury of three counts of Sexual Battery (Engaging in Sexual Battery while in Position of Familial or Custodial Authority).

During the trial, it was revealed that Matthew Wayne Niau had been having sex with a minor child for several months during 2019. The jury in this case deliberated for less than an hour before rendering a guilty verdict on all counts as charged.

Prosecuting attorney, Carrie Gilmer stated, "This trial was a long time coming after several delays due to COVID-19 restrictions. It was a very important day for the victim and the victim's family, and they finally feel some closure." The Defendant faces a maximum punishment of life in prison. The sentencing hearing will take place in October in front of Circuit Court Judge Nobles.

The investigation and arrest were conducted by the Escambia County Sheriff's Office. Assistant State Attorney Carrie Gilmer prosecuted this case. For further information, please contact her at (850) 595-4500.