



250 South Jefferson Street * PO Box 130
Redwood Falls, MN 56283
Ph: (507) 637-4010 * Fax: (507) 637-1386

Office of the County Attorney

Shannon Ness
Redwood County Attorney

Amy M. Busse
Marissa P. Pacheco
Assistant County Attorneys

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Shannon Ness, Redwood County Attorney

Phone: (507) 637-4010

REDWOOD FALLS MAN FOUND GUILTY OF CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT

REDWOOD FALLS, MN --- A Redwood County jury found Derek Jerome Stillson, 26, guilty of four counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct in the First Degree and two counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct in the Second Degree. The jury deliberated for approximately one and a half hours on May 9, 2025, before delivering the guilty verdicts around 1:40 p.m.

The criminal complaint and evidence presented at trial revealed Defendant was in a romantic relationship with Victim. Victim was vulnerable due to physical and mental health needs. Victim was prescribed medication to help her sleep, which she took prior to going to sleep each night. On multiple occasions during their relationship, Victim woke up in the middle of the night to Defendant sexually penetrating her without her consent. Consent cannot be given by someone who is sleeping.

Shannon Ness, Redwood County Attorney, who prosecuted the case, told the jury in her closing argument, "This case was about three things; manipulation, power and control. Over the past few days, you have learned how Defendant used manipulation, power, and control to rape, assault, humiliate, belittle, and injure Victim throughout their relationship. Defendant counted on everyone to dismiss Victim's concerns, fears, and trauma because she takes medication for her various physical and mental needs. Defendant underestimated Victim. Her medical issues, her vulnerabilities, and her disabilities do not make her less believable."

Stillson will be sentenced on July 21, 2025, at the Redwood County Courthouse.

Stillson has a prior conviction of Criminal Sexual Conduct in the Third Degree. In that case, Defendant sexually penetrated a juvenile male while the juvenile was sleeping. Defendant was required to register as a predatory offender as a result of that conviction.