



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 27, 2012

Contact: Shannon Kingery
402-471-2067
shannon.kingery@nebraska.gov

AG Bruning: Child Protection Convictions Obtained in Clay and Pierce Counties

LINCOLN—Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced Michael Stephens of Clay County was found guilty of three counts of 1st degree sexual assault of a child, each a Class IB felony, after a bench trial in Clay County District Court. Class IB felonies carry a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in prison and a maximum of life imprisonment.

“Mr. Stephens violated the trust of his young victim,” said Bruning. “Today’s conviction helps to ensure he is held accountable for his crime.”

In July 2011, Stephens was charged with sexually assaulting a six-year-old victim multiple times over a six month period.

Sentencing has been set for March 14, 2012.

Assistant Attorney General Matt Lierman is handling the case.

Pierce County

In an unrelated case in Pierce County, Lance M. Sudbeck, 22, of Norfolk pleaded guilty to four counts of possession of child pornography, each a Class III felony. Class III felonies carry a possible sentence of 20 years in prison and/or a \$25,000 fine.

The plea stems from an investigation by the Attorney General’s Cybercrime Unit that found multiple sexually explicit images of minors on Sudbeck’s computer.

Sudbeck is scheduled for sentencing on April 26, 2012.

Assistant Attorney General Jeff Gaertig is handling the case.

###