



Former Montgomery County Deputy Convicted of Felonious Assault and Domestic Violence

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DAVID P. FORNSHELL
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Douglas Gearhart, 44, of Franklin, Ohio, was found guilty today by Warren County Common Pleas Court Judge Timothy Tepe of felonious assault, a felony of the 2nd degree, and two counts of domestic violence, both misdemeanors of the 1st degree.

On February 15, 2017, Gearhart assaulted his wife and her daughter in their Franklin home. Gearhart grabbed his stepdaughter by her head and neck and shoved her into a door. When his wife tried to intervene, Gearhart grabbed her by the hair and shoved her to the ground, hitting her head on the kitchen island. A few moments later, he pulled his wife into the garage. When the children found their mother, she was on the garage floor semi-conscious next to a puddle of blood, and three of her front teeth were on the garage floor. Gearhart fled the scene, but was later apprehended. The victim was taken to the hospital by squad.

At the time of the incident, Gearhart was employed as a Montgomery County deputy sheriff. He has since resigned.

“Nothing angers law enforcement officers more than another officer dishonoring the badge. Today’s verdict represents justice not only for his victim, but also for our Southwest Ohio law enforcement community because it cleans from the ranks someone who has no business being a cop,” said Warren County Prosecutor David P. Fornshell.

Sentencing is scheduled for November 15th.

Fornshell commended the investigation efforts of Deputy Reil Becker of the Warren County Sheriff’s Office, as well as Assistant Prosecutor Derek Faulkner, Victim Witness Coordinators Melissa Kennard and Lauren May, and Legal Assistant Brenda Berry for their work on the case.



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