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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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REVERE MAN FOUND GUILTY OF CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT

REDWOOD FALLS, MN --- A Redwood County jury found Matthew Eric Hartson, 18, guilty of three 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 two and a half hours on August 8, 2025, before delivering the guilty verdicts around 1:05 p.m.

Amy M. Busse, Assistant Redwood County Attorney, who prosecuted the case, told the jury in her closing argument, "Defendant made the deliberate choice of luring the 12-year-old Victim into an abandoned building where the Defendant forced the Victim to engage in numerous sex acts. The Victim felt he had no choice but to comply with the demands of the Defendant, the Victim was very scared and just wanted the sexual assault to end."

Hartson will be sentenced on October 13, 2025, at the Redwood County Courthouse.

Hartson has a prior conviction for Criminal Sexual Conduct in the Second Degree and was required to register as a predatory offender as a result of that conviction.