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Saturday, February 20, 2010

Florida man guilty in rape of children

Two were victims in sexual assaults

By Gary V. Murray TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF

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WORCESTER — A Florida man is scheduled to be sentenced next month after being convicted yesterday of sexually assaulting two children, a boy and a girl.

A Worcester Superior Court jury deliberated for about seven hours before finding 42-year-old Richard Sobol of Deland, Fla., guilty of eight counts of child rape, four counts of indecent assault and battery on a child, two counts of disseminating matter harmful to minors and a morals offense.

Judge Mitchell H. Kaplan allowed a defense motion for a required finding of not guilty on another morals offense charge.

The sexual assaults occurred on various dates from Jan. 1, 2003, to Dec. 31, 2004, in Holden. The male victim was 7 years old when the assaults began and the female was 5. The case was investigated by Detective Sgt. Christopher Carey of the Holden Police Department.

Judge Kaplan scheduled sentencing for March 9. At the request of Assistant District Attorney Anthony J.

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Marotta, the judge ordered that Mr. Sobol remain in custody without bail until the sentencing hearing.

Mr. Sobol was represented by lawyer Michael H. Erlich.

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