

Ex-police officer in Evansville sentenced to 12 years in prison

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Vanderburgh County Circuit Court Judge Carl Heldt listened to testimony from family and friends in support of a lesser sentence for a former city police officer who was convicted of criminal deviate conduct.

But Heldt found Martin Montgomery had violated the public's trust and that the aggravating circumstances outweighed anything that was said.

Heldt sentenced Montgomery to 12 years in prison on each of the two counts. However, the sentences are to run concurrently.

Montgomery, 29, was accused by prosecutors of forcing women to perform sexual acts while he was on duty in November 2008 and March 2009.

On July 27, a jury of four men and eight women deliberated for a little more than two hours before returning a guilty verdict.

Montgomery was suspended from the police force after the complaint surfaced in June 2009, with Police Chief Brad Hill recommending he be fired. He was arrested on July 29, 2009, and released on a \$1,500 cash bond the same night. He resigned from the department five days later, shortly before the Police Merit Commission was to consider Hill's recommendation that he be terminated.

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