

# Dennis Decker Found Guilty on Most Charges

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**By KPSP Local 2 News**

Former Desert Hot Springs Police Officer Dennis Decker was convicted of many of the charges against him in his molestation trial. Jurors found him guilty of 12 counts including multiple rape charges involving his now 18-year-old stepdaughter.

Jurors found him not guilty on two counts but guilty of the lesser offenses on those charges. As for the second alleged victim a teenage explorer scout Decker was found not guilty of a count of a lewd act with a child under 16-years-of age. Jurors could not reach a verdict on five of the 20 counts.

Decker's stepdaughter says he sexually abused her for a decade beginning when she seven-years-old. Outside of court she gave us her reaction to the verdicts. She told us "I feel happy; I feel relieved. I can move on with my life now." She also says she thanks jurors for believing her testimony over her father's. She said "A juror came up and hugged me and said good luck in the future."

Debbie Hodge a close family friend of Decker's stepdaughter who came to court Tuesday in her support says "I think the jury did a fabulous job. I think they got it right and the system worked."

Christopher Decker the stepdaughter's brother also the defendant's son appeared understandably torn. He told us "I pray to God no teen goes through what I've gone through."

During trial Christopher Decker testified for his father. He called it a tug of war between both sides. He says "It's one of the most gutwrenching stressful situations you'll ever have in your whole life." Christopher said he saw his Dad cry for the first time Tuesday. He says "I told him I loved him. I want him to know no matter what verdict I'll always love him."

Christopher's sister who says Decker abused her for a decade beginning when she was just seven-years-old admits she still loves her father but says she's glad she doesn't have to deal with the pain anymore.

The District Attorney's Office says Decker could face 90 years to life in prison. Sentencing has been scheduled for June 27th.

Meanwhile Decker's defense attorney says he will file motions for a new trial.

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