

Mesa man found guilty of sex assaults on teen

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2008 cop pedophile

A Mesa County jury did Thursday what a body of peers refused to do six months ago: convict Rodney Eddy.

Eddy, 69, a Mesa resident, was convicted on eight felony counts of sexual assault on a teenage girl. He was found guilty on four counts each of sexual assault on a child by a person in a position of trust and identical counts alleging a pattern of abuse.

Eddy looked away from the jury after District Judge Valerie Robison read the first guilty verdict, gazing expressionless at his wife seated behind him.

Eddy was found not guilty on six other sex-assault charges and two counts of sexual exploitation of a child.

Prosecutors alleged Eddy had sexual relations with the girl starting in the summer of 2003 when the girl was 13 years old. The eight-man, four-woman jury, however, specifically found the sex assaults occurred after the girl turned 15.

The girl reported the abuse to authorities in May 2008. The girl testified she didn't come forward earlier because she didn't think the sex was wrong.

A jury in February was deadlocked on 16 sexual- assault counts and declined to convict Eddy on any of the sex incidents the girl testified to.

Eddy's defense repeatedly questioned the girl's story, pointing to Eddy's diagnosis of erectile dysfunction from the 1990s and suggesting he was incapable of performing the hundreds of sex acts testified to by the girl.

Prosecutors in the second trial countered the claim with records showing Eddy's years-long use of Viagra, and later Lexapro, and reports from his doctor suggesting Eddy was happy with the results.

"I think the element of surprise wasn't there this time," Deputy District Attorney Jeremy Savage said of Eddy's defense. "This time we had more of his medical records."

Eddy, a former deacon at Mesa View Bible Church, retired officer with the Los Angeles Police Department and substitute teacher with School District 51, faces what could add up to a life term in prison during his sentencing hearing Nov. 1.

Robison ordered Eddy jailed and held without bond prior to sentencing.