

## MEDIA RELEASE

CASE: State of Ohio v. Bruce A. Curtis

CASE NO: Butler CA2008-01-008

PANEL: Presiding Judge H.J. Bressler, Judges William W. Young and Stephen W. Powell

JUDGMENT: Affirmed

TRIAL COURT: Butler County Court of Common Pleas

ATTORNEYS: Robin N. Piper, Butler County Prosecuting Attorney, Lina N. Alkawahwi, Government Services Center, 315 High Street, 11th Floor, Hamilton, OH 45011-6057, for plaintiff-appellee

Samuel D. Borst, Baden & Jones Building, 246 High Street, Hamilton, OH 45011, for defendant-appellant

The Twelfth District Court of Appeals has affirmed the convictions of Bruce A. Curtis for sexual imposition and attempted sexual battery.

On or about February 21, 2007, Curtis, the pastor of a local church, went to the home of a 17-year-old member of his congregation. According to the victim, she had known Curtis for several years as both her godfather and pastor. At trial, she testified that during their encounter, Curtis asked her to perform fellatio on him, and exposed his penis to her. She further testified that Curtis placed his hand down the front of her pants and touched her stomach and pubic hair. In a statement introduced at trial, Curtis admitted to asking the youth to perform fellatio on him. There was also evidence presented that Curtis admitted to touching the victim's stomach and pubic hair. Curtis was convicted on December 4, 2007 of both charges. He was sentenced to 15 months in prison.

Curtis appealed his convictions, arguing that the indictment on the attempted sexual battery charge was defective, the evidence did not support his conviction on either charge, and the trial court's jury instructions were insufficient.

Writing for a unanimous court, Judge William W. Young affirmed Curtis' convictions. The court determined that the language of the indictment sufficiently informed Curtis of the nature of the charge against him and was not prejudicial. The court further concluded that the jury instructions were proper, and the evidence introduced at trial supported Curtis' convictions on both charges. Presiding Judge H.J. Bressler and Judge Stephen W. Powell concurred in the opinion.

The Twelfth District Court of Appeals affirmed the convictions of Bruce A. Curtis for attempted sexual battery and sexual imposition.

