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Madison County, Illinois  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Haine announces guilty verdict in predatory  
criminal sexual assault trial**

**Edwardsville, IL** — Madison County State's Attorney Tom Haine announced Wednesday that a Collinsville man has been found guilty of four counts of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child (enhanced class X felony) and one count of criminal sexual assault (class 1 felony).

Markki L. Edmonson, 48, was found guilty Wednesday following a bench trial in Circuit Court of Madison County.

Edmonson was found guilty of committing sexual acts with a victim who was between the ages of 9 and 13, between Jan. 1, 2016, and Feb. 14, 2018. The assaults came to light after the child made a report to a school social worker.

In her closing argument, Assistant State's Attorney Rebecca Buettner argued that the victim's statements were credible and the defendant's were not.

The case was investigated by Collinsville Police Department and Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

Haine said: "We commend the victim for having the tremendous courage to report what happened and to face this predator in court. I also commend the investigating agencies, the Madison County Child Advocacy Center, the prosecution team and the victim advocates at the State's Attorney's Office for working collaboratively to ensure that this victim's voice was heard."

The case was prosecuted by Buettner, who is assigned to the Children's Justice Division at the State's Attorney's Office, and Assistant State's Attorney Ali Foley, who is chief of the Children's Justice Division.

Associate Judge Neil Schroeder presided at the trial.

Edmonson will be sentenced later. The class X felonies carry a sentence of 6-60 years in prison and the class 1 felony carries a sentence of 4-15 years in prison. All of the counts are non-probationable and carry mandatory consecutive sentences, meaning Edmonson faces a minimum 28-year sentence.