

Samson man convicted of scissor assault, molesting girl

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A jury has found a Samson man guilty of stabbing a teenager in the eye with a pair of scissors and molesting the teen's younger sister.

Assistant Geneva County District Attorney Stephen Smith said the jury deliberated a couple hours before returning the double guilty verdict against Gregory Hornsby. Smith said Samson police arrested Hornsby, 49, of South Broad Street, and charged him with sex abuse of a child younger than 12 years old and felony first-degree assault. He was released from custody after he posted a \$100,000 bond.



Greg
Hornsby

"An 18-year-old walked in on Greg Hornsby in some inappropriate conduct with his sister," Smith said. "Hornsby attacked the 18-year-old boy and stabbed him in the eye."

Smith said Hornsby went on trial Monday for an attempted murder charge that was returned by the grand jury, along with the sex abuse charge. Smith said the charges stem from an incident that happened on July 2, 2007.

Geneva County Circuit Court Judge P.B. McLauchlin will sentence Hornsby at a later date. Smith said after the guilty verdict that McLauchlin revoked Hornsby's bond, and he will be held at the Geneva County Jail until sentencing. Hornsby, who had two prior felony convictions, including another stabbing assault, faces 15 years to life in prison for each charge because of the habitual offender act.

Smith said Hornsby told police he stabbed the teenage boy in self-defense, and he did not give a statement on the sex crime. The teenager testified in a trial against Hornsby that he suffered a cut just above his eye that Smith said injured the teen's orbital nerve. The scissor assault left the teenager with permanent partial blindness in one eye.

Smith encouraged any other possible sexual assault victims to come forward to the Geneva County District Attorney's Office in Geneva by calling at 684-3697.

"We're just happy we were able to deliver justice for this girl and her brother," Smith said.

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