

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New York State Court of Appeals Affirms Convictions of Robert Halter

Rochester, NY- Today, the New York Court of Appeals affirmed the 2007 convictions of Robert C. Halter for sexual abuse in the first degree, rape in the second degree, criminal sexual act in the second degree, and endangering the welfare of a child. The majority's decision reaffirms the protections that victims of sex crimes deserve with respect to their prior sexual conduct. In dissent, Judge Robert Smith expressed his concern that the defendant may be innocent and suggested that the Monroe County District Attorney further investigate the matter.

In the wake of the decision, the Monroe County District Attorney's Office released the following statement:

We take Judge Smith's concerns very seriously and wish to assure the Court and the community that we have carefully considered the defendant's claims of innocence. In response to a previous motion by the defendant to vacate his conviction based on new evidence, the Monroe County District Attorney's Office conducted a thorough review of the case. This included review of materials that were not part of the record on appeal, and so were not before Judge Robert Smith or the other Judges of the Court of Appeals. Based upon that review, we are confident in defendant's guilt. And, ultimately a Court reviewed defendant's claims and the People's response and agreed that no reason existed to set aside the conviction.

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