

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Serial Rapist Michael Chess Guilty On All Counts

Rochester, NY- Today, a Monroe County jury found “Backpage Rapist” Michael Chess guilty of five (5) counts of Rape in the 1st Degree in addition to other charges for the forcible rapes of five women during a one year period from September 2011 and September 2012. On separate occasions during that time, Chess made arrangement to meet young prostitutes that he solicited online in residential areas in Irondequoit and the City of Rochester, where he raped them. Chess had come to be known as the “Backpage Rapist” due to his penchant for using the internet classifieds website www.backpage.com –a site often associated with illicit activities such as prostitution—as a means of identifying his victims. Chess would contact women through the website and arrange meetings, only to rape and rob them when they arrived. Two additional victims, who were attacked by Chess following his initial arrest but were able to fend him off, testified during the proceedings and identified the defendant as their attacker.

Chess, whose trial lasted 3 ½ weeks, was prosecuted for the People by Deputy Division Chief Andra Ackerman and Assistant District Attorney Leslie Schildt.

“Michael Chess is the very definition of a serial rapist, and today’s verdict undoubtedly spared untold numbers of women from suffering a similar fate,” said Ackerman. “Because these women operate in the shadows, there is a strong possibility that more victims could exist—but Michael Chess’ days of terrorizing this community and creating new victims have come to an end.”

Michael Chess will be sentenced in State Supreme Court before Judge Alex R. Renzi on November 27th at 9:30am, where he faces up to 50 years in prison.

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