



# PRESS RELEASE

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## Macomb County Prosecutor files first appeal to U.S. Supreme Court

Mount Clemens, MI - Last Thursday, October 26, 2023, the Prosecutor's Office filed its first Writ of Certiorari to the U.S. Supreme Court Circuit Court, in the case of People of the State of Michigan v Anthony Joseph Veach.

Veach was convicted of seven counts of first degree criminal sexual conduct and two counts of second degree criminal sexual conduct for sexually assaulting his daughter, when she was 15 and 16 years old. The defendant was sentenced to 20-60 years in prison for each of the first degree convictions and 10 to 15 years in prison for each of the second degree convictions.

Veach challenged the guilty verdicts, arguing that Circuit Court Judge Joseph Toia improperly closed the courtroom during the child victim's testimony without articulating the reasons on the record. The Michigan Court of Appeals upheld the closure, citing valid reasons on record; however, the Michigan Supreme Court disagreed and stated that the trial court's failure to articulate the reasons for the closure violated the Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. As a result, the defendant's convictions for raping his daughter were vacated and a new trial was granted. Justice Brian Zahra of the Michigan Supreme Court issued a strong dissent and asserted that the record clearly indicated justification for closing the courtroom during the child victim's testimony.

In its appeal, the Prosecutor's Office states that the decision wrongfully reverses the convictions of an otherwise fundamentally fair trial. The appeal further indicates that the only error is the failure of the trial court to articulate its reason for the closure.

"The Macomb County Prosecutor's Office has filed a petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the U.S. Supreme Court in People v Anthony Veach. Our goal is to uphold the convictions for these

crimes. We seek a resolution that respects the law while safeguarding the well-being of those who have endured unimaginable trauma,” said Macomb County Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido.

After the defense brief is submitted, the U.S. Supreme Court will decide whether to hear the case. If the U.S. Supreme Court chooses not to consider the case, a new trial will be necessary to secure a conviction.

Defendant Veach remains in custody with his original bond.

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