

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## MAN WHO MOLESTED GIRL MUST GIVE HER LOTTERY MONEY JUDGE AWARDS HER \$2.5 MILLION IN DAMAGES

**SOURCE:** By William C. Lhotka

Of The Post-Dispatch

**PUBLICATION:** St. Louis Post-Dispatch  
**SECTION:** METRO

**DATE:** March 9, 2001

**EDITION:** FIVE STAR LIFT

**PAGE:** C2

On Nov. 1, 1989, Thomas Bisso won \$2.7 million in the Missouri Lottery and decided to take his good fortune in 20 annual installments.

But a judge ruled this week that Bisso, 51, of Maplewood, won't get the remaining eight years of payments. Instead, they will go toward meeting an order by St. Louis County Circuit Judge Philip J. Sweeney that Bisso pay \$1.5 million in compensatory damages and \$1 million in punitive damages to a teen-ager Bisso molested in fall 1992, when the girl was 6.

Sweeney ordered that "all future proceeds of the Missouri Lottery prize previously won by defendant shall be paid by the state of Missouri, the Missouri Lottery Commission," to the victim through her lawyers.

**Bret Rich**, one of the teen's attorneys, said Thursday that a psychologist had found she still suffers mentally and emotionally from the sexual assault nine years ago.

A report by the psychologist, Daniel Levin, was part of the evidence that Sweeney considered Monday, along with portions of sworn statements by Bisso, the teen and her mother. Also considered were the Maplewood police report and Bisso's criminal court file.

Court records show Bisso was charged with sodomy on March 11, 1994. He pleaded guilty on Nov. 18 of that year and spent 120 days at the Sexual Offender's Assessment Unit in the prison in Farmington, Mo., before being placed on three years of probation in May 1995.

At his sentencing, Bisso admitted sex acts with the victim, who lived in Franklin County, between Oct. 1 and Nov. 25, 1992.

Clayton attorney **Bret Rich** filed suit against Bisso on behalf of the girl and her mother in 1999. Rich alleged that the sexual assault interfered with the girl's "ability to enjoy life and will in the future interfere with her ability to enjoy life."

Kolker said Thursday that the teen-ager lives with her family and is a freshman in high school.

**Caption:**

**Correction:**

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