

An area man convicted of sexual assault could not persuade an appeals court that he was mentally ill, or had another medical condition that justified a new trial or a different sentence.

Appeals judges have upheld the conviction and appeal of 60-year-old Darryl Pruett of Trempealeau County. Pruett is almost halfway through a nine-year prison term for sexually assaulting an underage girl. He wanted to withdraw his guilty plea, claiming insanity. But the appeals court did not find justification for that claim. They also rejected Pruett's argument that a thyroid condition was not taken into account when he was sentenced.