

Isabella



Purvis found not guilty

A 12-member jury Thursday found a 39-year-old Lake man not guilty of first degree criminal sexual conduct following a four-day trial in Isabella County 21st Circuit Court.

Lyle Edgar Purvis had been accused of sexual penetration of a 5-year-old girl, who was a member of the same household, on March 2, 1983. The jury deliberated 2½ hours before rendering its verdict.

Circuit Judge Paul O'Connell commended Defense Attorney Daniel O'Neil in his representation of the defendant.

"Mr. Purvis, you received excellent representation in this case," Judge O'Connell said after announcement of the not guilty verdict. "I think without (Mr. O'Neil's) service the results could have been different."

Mr. Purvis, brushing tears from his face, thanked the jurors as they were excused from the courtroom by the judge.

First degree CSC is a felony punishable by life or any term of years in prison.