OFFICE OF THE
NEWTON COUNTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
WILLIAM P. LYNCH

101 S. WOOD ST, SUITE 401 NEOSHO, MO 64850 417-451-8244

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 8, 2026

Jury Convicts Joplin Man of Assault at Hospital

PINEVILLE, Mo. — A McDonald County jury convicted John Anthony McGonigle, 41, of Joplin, Missouri, of Assault in the First Degree following a two-day jury trial in McDonald County, Missouri in front of the Honorable Judge Christine Rhoades of the 40th Judicial Circuit.

The charges stemmed from an incident on February 11, 2026, at Mercy Hospital in Joplin, where McGonigle was a patient. According to evidence presented at trial, hospital employees were attending to McGonigle when he became agitated. After being told that he could not have his phone or visitors at that time, McGonigle threw his phone at the victim, the house manager for that shift, and immediately began striking him.

The victim testified that the attack occurred without warning and described the moment he regained consciousness after being struck as one in which he believed he was going to die. Following the assault, the victim was transported to the emergency department for treatment.

Evidence presented at trial established that the victim suffered significant injuries as a result of the assault, including fractures to the left maxillary and temporal bones, a fractured bone in his inner ear, a torn left rotator cuff, a serious knee injury, a concussion and a contrecoup brain injury with a subdural hematoma. The victim also suffered permanent hearing loss in one ear.

During the trial, the jury heard testimony regarding statements made by McGonigle following the assault, including threats to other hospital employees. Another nurse who witnessed the assault testified that McGonigle threatened to find hospital employees and kill them and their families and pets. Evidence was also presented that the same nurse later received a social media connection request from McGonigle.

The defense presented evidence concerning McGonigle's medical condition and medication he had received shortly before the assault. However, testimony established that the medication would not have had sufficient time to take effect before McGonigle attacked the victim.

In closing argument, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Sarah Crites emphasized that there was no dispute that the victim had suffered serious physical injuries and argued that McGonigle knowingly and intentionally struck the nurse.

“The evidence in this case proved beyond a reasonable doubt that our victim suffered life-changing injuries simply because he stepped into a hospital room and attempted to do his job,” said Newton

OFFICE OF THE
NEWTON COUNTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
WILLIAM P. LYNCH

101 S. WOOD ST, SUITE 401 NEOSHO, MO 64850 417-451-8244

County Prosecuting Attorney William Lynch. “Our office is grateful to the victim for having the courage to testify about what happened to him and to the jury for carefully considering the evidence and holding the defendant accountable for his actions.”

The jury returned its guilty verdict after 42 minutes of deliberation following approximately two days of evidence.

The defendant is entitled to a Sentencing Assessment Report following the conviction. Sentencing is scheduled for December 11, 2026, in McDonald County Circuit Court.

The case was investigated by the Joplin Police Department and prosecuted by Sarah Crites, Dillon Walker, and William Lynch of the Newton County Prosecuting Attorneys’ Office. Kayla McQuigg of the Newton County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office provided integral victim services throughout the pendency of the case.