

OPINION SUMMARY
MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS EASTERN DISTRICT

STATE OF MISSOURI,)	No. ED99555
)	
Plaintiff/Respondent,)	Appeal from the Circuit Court
)	of the City of St. Louis
v.)	
)	
ROBERT BAKER,)	Honorable Mark H. Neill
)	
Defendant/Appellant.)	Filed: February 11, 2014

Robert Baker (Appellant) appeals from the trial court’s judgment convicting him of two counts of first-degree statutory sodomy and six counts of first-degree child molestation. On appeal, Appellant argues the trial court erred in allowing expert testimony regarding the five stages of victim disclosure because the testimony was either (1) impermissible particularized testimony that usurped the decision-making function of the jury or (2) irrelevant generalized testimony.

AFFIRMED.

Division Two Holds: The trial court did not err in admitting the expert testimony as it was general testimony describing behaviors and characteristics commonly found in those who have been the victims of sexual abuse that was admissible to assist the jury in understanding the behavior of sexually abused children, an issue relevant to the jurors’ duties of assessing witness credibility and in rendering a verdict.

Opinion by: Sherri B. Sullivan, J. Lawrence E. Mooney, P.J., and Robert G. Dowd, Jr., J., concur.

Attorney for Appellant: Roxanna A. Mason
Attorneys for Respondent: Daniel N. McPherson

<p>THIS SUMMARY IS NOT PART OF THE OPINION OF THE COURT. IT HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE READER AND SHOULD NOT BE QUOTED OR CITED.</p>
