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Thomas William Johnson receives five year prison sentence for attempting to sexually abuse teen

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced 51-year-old Thomas William Johnson received a five year prison sentence after he broke into a Multnomah County residence and attempted to sexually abuse an 18 year old female as she was sleeping.

On October 2, 2018, Johnson appeared before Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Christopher J. Marshall and pleaded guilty to one count each of burglary in the first degree and attempted sexual abuse in the first degree. The two charges stem from an incident that occurred on August 31, 2017 in the 2900 block of Northeast 49th Avenue in Portland, Oregon.

The defendant broke into the residence after a male, 18, left to drive his friends home. While the male was away from the residence, his girlfriend was in a bedroom sleeping. She woke up to Johnson on top of her with his hands around her throat. When the victim attempted to scream, Johnson squeezed her neck so she could not. During the assault, the victim's boyfriend returned to the residence and confronted the intruder. The two men struggled and Johnson fled but was eventually captured.

"We have to live with this for the rest of our lives," the 18 year old male said in court on Tuesday. "I used to think of my home as a safe and secure place but I can't sleep at my home without having nightmares about his face. What he did will always forever impact me for the rest of my life."

The female victim did not attend Tuesday's change of plea and sentencing hearing. Her boyfriend's mother, however, told the court Johnson's attack destroyed the family's peace of mind.

"You hid in our backyard and when our son left to take his friends home you broke in and did your best to ruin an 18 year old girl's life," she said. "You shoved your fingers down her throat, you told her you've never had sex with a teenager. You told her you would kill her. Thank God my son came home and stopped you."

Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney Todd Jackson, who prosecuted this case, told the court the victim and her boyfriend exhibited tremendous bravery after experiencing something that no one should ever have to go through.

The resolution of this case was the result of a carefully negotiated settlement that took into consideration mitigating factors that were presented to this office. The victim, her family, her boyfriend and his family all participated in the discussions surrounding pre-trial resolution, and with their support the State agreed to resolve this case for the five year prison sentence.

Prior to this offense, the defendant had no violent criminal record. Johnson stated in court his behavior that night was fueled by a multi-day drug binge.

Judge Marshall imposed a five year prison sentence. Based on the serious nature of the crime and the impact it had on the victim and her boyfriend, Judge Marshall made a specific finding and denied Johnson any credit for good time, meaning he will have to serve all five years in prison.

Johnson also pleaded guilty to one count of criminal mischief in the first degree for conduct that happened on August 31, 2017 shortly after to the attempted sexual abuse.

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