



OFFICE OF
STATE ATTORNEY
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

April 23, 2014

PRESS RELEASE

William Eddins, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit, announced today that Arnold Jerome Knight has been sentenced to 31 years on the charge of Attempted Second Degree Murder with a Weapon and Violation of Injunction for Protection from Domestic Violence. Knight was classified as a Prison Releasee Reoffender and therefore must serve 30 years as a minimum mandatory sentence, meaning day-for-day. The sentence was imposed by Circuit Judge John Brown.

Knight was convicted in February after a jury trial. The charges arose from an incident which occurred on September 25, 2012 where the victim had obtained an Injunction for Protection Against Domestic Violence. Knight was served the injunction around 9:00 p.m. At approximately 6:00 a.m. on September 26, 2012, the Victim went to prepare her car for the day. While attempting to open the car door, she heard a noise behind her and saw the Defendant running at her with an object in his hand. The last thing the Victim remembered before Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, was the Defendant striking her in the arm with the weapon. The Victim identified the Defendant as her assailant as did two of her children who saw a portion of the encounter. The Victim suffered a facial fracture, a broken arm, and severe cuts to her face.

Deputies found the weapon, a handle from a hydraulic jack, near the residence. Deputies also found the Defendant a short distance from the residence. The weapon was collected and sent to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for DNA testing. The Defendant's DNA and the Victim's DNA were discovered on the weapon.

The investigation and arrest was conducted by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office with assistance from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Assistant State Attorney Jonathan Schlechter prosecuted the case. For more information, please contact Mr. Schlechter at 651-7260.