

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Rapist Gets 41 Years to Life in Prison

(October 10, 2014... Akron) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Judge Alison McCarty sentenced Michael T. Person, 34, of College Street in Barberton, to 41 years to life in prison.

On October 3, 2014, a jury found Person guilty of Rape, a felony of the first degree, two counts of Complicity to Commit Rape, felonies of the first degree, Felonious Assault, a felony of the second degree, and Kidnapping, a felony of the first degree.

On February 2, 2014, Deandra Thomas went to Person's house to buy drugs. When Thomas arrived, Person had just hit the victim and burned her with a cigarette. Person began to look for drugs and told Thomas to rape the victim; which he did, twice. Thomas then punched the victim in the face causing a severe bruise to the victim's right eye which lasted for days. After Thomas left, Person raped the victim and would not let her leave his home.

Walsh stated, "While the victim's bruises have healed, the emotional trauma from what Person put her through will last a lifetime. The courage of this victim in coming forward will prevent Person from hurting anyone else."

Judge Alison McCarty further found Person to be a Sexually Violent Predator because of a previous sex offense.