

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2023

## **SPARTANBURG MAN RECEIVES 16-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE FOR STRANGULATION**

From the Office of Seventh Circuit Solicitor Barry J. Barnette

A Cowpens man has been sentenced to sixteen (16) years in prison for repeatedly strangling a man.

Kenneth Scott Blake, 36, pleaded guilty on Tuesday in Spartanburg to Attempted Murder. Circuit Court Judge Grace Gilchrist Knie sentenced Blake to sixteen (16) years in prison. Blake must serve 85% of his prison sentence before he is eligible for release.

The crime occurred on the morning of April 12, 2021, in the behavioral health unit of the Spartanburg Regional Medical Center. Mr. Blake was the roommate of the victim at the hospital. Mr. Blake went into the common area of the behavioral health unit and looked around to see if anyone was watching. He then re-entered his room and approached the victim who appeared to be sleeping. Mr. Blake wrapped his hands around the victim's neck and began to strangle the victim. Mr. Blake put the entire weight of his body into the act and onto the victim's neck. He strangled the victim for almost a minute and then let go. The victim gasped for breath before Mr. Blake strangled him again. Mr. Blake stopped to check the common area again to see if anyone was coming and then re-entered the room and strangled the victim again for over a minute. As a nurse came by the hospital room, Mr. Blake stopped his assault and hopped back into his bed as though nothing had occurred. Security footage shows the victim kicked his legs violently during the attack.

Blake's prior criminal history included convictions for domestic violence, Possession of Marijuana, and Possession of Methamphetamine. Blake had recently been released from prison after serving a prior sentence for Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine.

Assistant Solicitor Spenser Smith commented it was a miracle the victim was not killed. The victim's ability to speak and breathe was clearly obstructed even after the attack ended. "Were it not for the Spartanburg Regional employee entering the room to serve breakfast, the outcome would have been much worse."

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