

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 16, 2023

## **GAFFNEY MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS FOR STALKING AND SHOOTING INTO HOME**

From the Office of Seventh Circuit Solicitor Barry J. Barnette

A Gaffney man has been sentenced to fifteen (15) years in prison for Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature, five (5) years for Possession of Weapon During the Commission of a Violent Crime, ten (10) years for Discharging Firearm Into a Dwelling, five (5) years for Stalking, one (1) year for Contraband, and thirty (30) days for Possession of Marijuana - all to run concurrently together.

Herbert Francis Barnhill, III, 41, pleaded guilty on Monday in Gaffney to Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature, Possession of a Weapon During the Commission of a Violent Crime, Discharging a Firearm into a Dwelling, Stalking, Contraband, and Possession of Marijuana. As part of the plea, a permanent restraining order was issued against Barnhill for the benefit of Melissa Hammond and her minor child. Circuit Court Judge J. Derham Cole issued the sentence.

In October 2020, the relationship between Mr. Barnhill and Melissa Hammond ended. On October 20, 2020, Mr. Barnhill called Ms. Hammond and threatened to shoot into her home. Mr. Barnhill thereafter drove by Ms. Hammond's residence and shot multiple rounds from a 9mm handgun into her home. Ms. Hammond was not at home at the time, however, her minor child was present when projectiles entered the home. Ms. Hammond's child was burned by a projectile that landed on a bed. After the October 2020 shooting and while Mr. Barnhill was out on bond, Mr. Barnhill repeatedly contacted Ms. Hammond and made threats to harm her. Mr. Barnhill was thereafter arrested for Stalking. While incarcerated at the Cherokee County Detention Center, Mr. Barnhill was found in possession of marijuana and charged with Possession of Marijuana and Possession of Contraband on December 20, 2022.

Barnhill's prior criminal history included convictions for Shoplifting and Malicious Injury to Personal Property.

Deputy Solicitor Kim Leskanic commended the courage of the victims and the dedicated work of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department and Detention Center.

For more information, contact Amy Goulding at 864-596-2575 or [agoulding@spartanburgcounty.org](mailto:agoulding@spartanburgcounty.org).

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