

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2023

MAN SENTENCED TO 21 YEARS IN PRISON FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT AT SPARTANBURG PARK

From the Office of Seventh Circuit Solicitor Barry J. Barnette

A Spartanburg man has been sentenced to twenty-one (21) years in prison for Criminal Sexual Conduct in the First Degree, ten (10) years in prison for Assault and Battery in the First Degree, twenty-one (21) years in prison for Kidnapping, and two (2) years in prison for his second offense of Failure to Stop Motor Vehicle When Signaled by Law Enforcement Vehicle. His sentences shall be served concurrently.

Ronny Leggett, 32, entered a plea under N.C. v. Alford on Monday in Spartanburg to Criminal Sexual Conduct in the First Degree, Kidnapping, Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature, and Failure to Stop Motor Vehicle When Signaled by Law Enforcement Vehicle second offense. In entering his plea under N.C. v. Alford Leggett admitted no guilt but agreed a jury would likely convict him. Circuit Court Judge Grace Gilchrist Knie issued the sentence.

Just after midnight on September 20, 2021, officers with the Spartanburg Police Department began investigating the sexual and physical assault of a sixty (60) year old woman. The assault had occurred earlier that night on Alexander Avenue in the City of Spartanburg. The victim was grabbed around the neck from behind by Mr. Leggett and pulled down a slight embankment. Thereafter Mr. Leggett sexually assaulted the victim in the parking lot of Priscilla Rumley Park. Shortly after the assault, the victim underwent an exam at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center with a nurse who is specially trained to conduct sexual assault exams. Mr. Leggett's DNA was found inside the victim's clothing and on her fingernails. Mr. Leggett was arrested on October 14, 2021, after he led officers on a vehicle pursuit through the City of Spartanburg. The vehicle pursuit ended when Mr. Leggett hit another vehicle on Haynes and Arcadia Streets and then left the crash scene on foot. Officers apprehended Mr. Leggett shortly after the crash.

Leggett's prior criminal history included convictions for Criminal Domestic Violence of a High and Aggravated Nature, Burglary in the Second Degree, Failure to Stop Motor Vehicle when Signaled by Law Enforcement Vehicle, Possession of Marijuana, and Resisting Arrest.

Assistant Solicitors Jennifer Jordan and Spenser Smith prosecuted Leggett. Assistant Solicitor Jordan expressed thanks for "the thorough investigative work by the Spartanburg Police Department and the resilience of the victim" in this matter.

For more information, contact Amy Goulding at 864-596-3812 or agoulding@spartanburgcounty.org.

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