

November 25, 2014

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Chanhassen Stabbing Leads to Prison Sentence

Carver County Attorney Mark Metz announced that on November 20, 2014, Carver County District Court Judge Michael Wentzell sentenced Christian Mayo, age 23, to a prison term of 84 months for stabbing a man he knew on May 13, 2013. The County Attorney's Office had charged Mayo, who was from Chanhassen, with felony charges of assault in the first and second degree for the stabbing. A jury of twelve citizens found Mayo guilty on both counts in July of 2014.

The evidence at trial revealed that Mayo had been friends with the stabbing victim for many years. The two men had a dispute during the evening of May 13, 2013, in which Mayo refused to pay the victim for damage he had done to the victim's vehicle. An altercation then occurred in front of the Mayo's home in Chanhassen in which Mayo stabbed the victim in the back, puncturing his lung. Emergency room doctors at Hennepin County Medical Center treated the victim that night for the collapsed lung. Over the course of emergency treatment, the victim lost more than 36 ounces of blood and had to have two separate chest tubes put in to remove the blood. The Carver County Sheriff's Office recovered a stiletto knife with a 4-inch blade that Mayo used to stab the victim hidden in the wall of Mayo's closet.

At trial, prosecutors David Hunt and Kelsey Scanlon argued that Mayo's conduct was unjustified and unreasonable. Mayo argued that he acted in self-defense to protect his family and girlfriend from the victim. By its verdict, the jury found that Mayo did not act in self-defense.

At sentencing, Judge Wentzell found that substantial and compelling reasons did not exist to depart from the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines, with a range of 84 to 117 months in prison. Judge Wentzell noted that Mayo had, "stabbed and severely injured another man and the jury determined beyond a reasonable doubt that it was not done in self-defense." In declining to impose a lesser sentence than the guidelines, Judge Wentzell also noted that Mayo had a prior drug conviction and had "several unsuccessful treatment attempts in the past...including while Mayo was on conditional release pending trial and facing a prison sentence." Judge Wentzell explained that an executed prison sentence best served the principles of deterrence, punishment and public safety and "to impress upon [Mayo] the criminality of [his] actions."

County Attorney Metz commented, "I want to recognize the great work and dedication of Mr. Hunt, Ms. Scanlon, and the Carver County Sheriff's Office. Their tremendous efforts led to the conviction of Mayo."