

## Chan man convicted of felony kidnapping

October 18, 2011



Loren Veltkamp

On Oct. 18, a Carver County jury convicted Lawrence Dean Veltkamp, 57, of Chanhassen, of felony kidnapping with the special circumstance of releasing the victim in an “unsafe place,” according to a press release from Carver County Attorney Mark Metz. The jury also found Veltkamp guilty of gross misdemeanor domestic assault and not guilty of felony false imprisonment.

The evidence at the five day trial revealed that the victim, an adult woman, had been hired by Veltkamp in the spring 2009 to do work and household chores at the home Veltkamp owns at 6724 Lotus Trail in Chanhassen. In exchange, Veltkamp gave the victim free room and board.

The victim has suffered from alcoholism for a number of years. In response to her alcoholic binges, on several prior occasions, Veltkamp “bounced” the victim by transporting her to a location away from the Chanhassen home where she had to find her own way home, according to the press release.

On July 25, 2010, again in response to an alcohol binge by the victim, the defendant wrapped the half-naked, barefoot victim with a rope into a “bundle” so he could carry her down the stairs. He then shoved her in the back of his Chevy Blazer, held her head down so she could not see where she was going, drove approximately 12 miles west and deposited her at a rural tree farm in Laketown Township.

Veltkamp threw a man’s shirt to her and took his rope back saying: “I would not waste this good rope on you,” the release stated.

By his own admission, Veltkamp then went grocery shopping while the intoxicated victim struggled through the thickets to the nearest house. There, homeowners provided assistance to her and notified the Carver County Sheriff’s Office. The victim suffered rope burns to her neck, wrists and ankles.

Judge Richard Perkins presided over the case. Following the verdicts, Judge Perkins ordered a pre-sentence investigation be completed and set a sentencing date for Dec. 16.

The Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines calls for a presumptive prison sentence of 41-57 months in prison. Assistant County Attorneys Colin Haley and Peter Ivy prosecuted the case.

In announcing this verdict, Metz complimented the thorough investigation conducted by the Carver County Sheriff’s Office, as well as the Good Samaritans that immediately rendered assistance to the struggling victim as she emerged from the woods.