

PRESS RELEASE

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MAN SENTENCED TO 45 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR DOMESTIC ASSAULT AND ATTEMPTED KIDNAPPING

Carver County Attorney Mark Metz announced that on April 11, 2017, Carver County District Court Judge Michael Wentzell sentenced Mark Anthony Galatowitsch, age 28, to a prison term of 45 months for assaulting and attempting to kidnap his girlfriend on February 11, 2017. Following Galatowitsch's arrest in the case, the Carver County Attorney's Office charged Galatowitsch, who lived in South St. Paul, with two counts of attempted kidnapping, assault with a dangerous weapon, and felony domestic assault. In a plea agreement on April 11, 2017, Galatowitsch plead guilty to one count of attempted kidnapping and one count of felony domestic assault. First Assistant Carver County Attorney David Hunt, who prosecuted the case, dismissed the remaining counts. The plea agreement called for consecutive sentences on the felony domestic assault and attempted kidnapping charges.

According to the complaint filed in the case, Galatowitsch drove to General Mills in Chanhassen at 10:00 p.m. on February 11, 2017, and waited in the parking lot for his ex-girlfriend to arrive for work. The two had dated for several months, but the woman broke off the relationship about five weeks before. When she arrived for work on February 11, Galatowitsch surprised her and confronted her in the parking lot. Galatowitsch yelled at her and ordered her into his vehicle. The woman refused to get in and attempted to move away from him. Galatowitsch grabbed her and dragged her by her hair to his car. He tried to force her inside the car's open passenger door. She resisted and the two struggled. Galatowitsch punched the woman several times in the head. She screamed and fell to the ground in an effort to prevent Galatowitsch from forcing her into the car. A security guard and some bystanders noticed the commotion and approached. Galatowitsch fled in his vehicle.

Deputies interviewed the woman, who was visibly shaken. She had an egg-sized lump on the back of her head where Galatowitsch punched her. She reported that she heard a clicking noise during the incident which she attributed to a knife that Galatowitsch may have opened.

A security camera at General Mills captured most of the incident. Deputies were able to trace Galatowitsch from his vehicle's license plate and data gathered from his cellphone. They searched Galatowitsch's car later and located a box-cutter knife inside.

Police in South St. Paul found Galatowitsch two days later hiding in a closet in his home. He had a box-cutter knife nearby.

In 2015, Galatowitsch was convicted of false imprisonment for assaulting a different woman at her work place in Burnsville and forcing her into his car. Galatowitsch has also been convicted of criminal sexual conduct and the violation of an order for protection.

County Attorney Metz recognized the Carver County Sheriff's Office for its prompt work and thorough investigation, especially the work of Detective Tyler Stahn.

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