

News Release

Contact: Naomi Nation
naomi@scsolicitor9.org
(843) 958-1945

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Telly Darnell McClam Sentenced to Life in Prison for Cross County Crime Spree

Moncks Corner, S.C. –Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that a Berkeley County jury convicted defendant, Telly Darnell McClam, of two counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct in the First Degree, two counts of Kidnapping, Burglary in the First Degree, Possession of a Weapon During the Commission of a Violent Crime, and Unlawful possession of a firearm by a person convicted of a violent crime. The defendant was apprehended after a high speed chase that ended with McClam fleeing into a wooded area with a gun and leaving the two victims to be rescued by police. He was on the run for 7 hours after fleeing his vehicle. Judge Deadre Jefferson imposed a life sentence for each of the Criminal Sexual Conduct Charges as well as the Burglary charge; and imposed 30 years on each of the kidnapping charges and 5 years on each of the weapons charges. The Defendant has served a 15 year prison sentence in the past and has prior convictions for Burglary 1st, Burglary 2nd, Criminal Sexual Conduct in the 2nd Degree, Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature. He was a Registered Sex Offender. Solicitor Wilson stated, “McClam is exactly the character the legislature had in mind with the LWOP statute that allows Solicitors to seek mandatory life for some repeat offenders. This was a classic case of escalating domestic violence.”

The victims’ nightmare began on October 28, 2013 when the defendant kidnapped his ex- girlfriend’s minor daughter from her bed at 5 a.m., after breaking into the girl’s Grandmother’s house, where she was staying. The teenager was taken to a remote area of Berkeley County where she was raped at gunpoint. Afterward, she was forced to call and text her mother, who had just left the defendant several days before after a history of domestic violence. The Defendant lured the child’s mother into his car by threatening to harm her daughter. Once the defendant had both victims in his car, he held them at gunpoint and threatened them with a knife over a period 9 hours. Berkeley County Sherriff’s Department interviewed witnesses and collected phone data early in the investigation and immediately issued an Amber Alert once the defendant and victims were identified. Thanks to the Amber Alert, the car eventually was spotted in Williamsburg County. During the course of the ordeal, the victims were taken throughout wooded areas across two counties and to a hunting cabin in Williamsburg County where they were bound with duct tape and threatened repeatedly with the gun.

Forensic evidence tied the defendant to the crime with his fingerprints on the duct tape and items in the vehicle, and his DNA in the sexual assault kit. The defendant was also apprehended with the gun after a SLED blood hound tracking team was brought in to locate him in a wooded area in Williamsburg County. The knife was located in his vehicle and identified by the victims. Over 170 exhibits of evidence were introduced at trial, but perhaps the most compelling was the victims’ testimony. Both Assistant Solicitors Anne Williams and Dan Poulos praised the victims’ courage in facing the defendant at trial and recounting the traumatic events of October 28th, 2013. Assistant Solicitor, Anne Williams said, “Berkeley County Sherriff’s Office conducted a thorough investigation in this case and we were happy that they were able to rescue the victims and help us prepare the case for trial and a guilty verdict.”

The older of the two victims, who was the ex-girlfriend of the defendant, had dropped charges 6 months before this incident for attempted murder, kidnapping and malicious injury to property. Five days before the incident, she had filed another police report against the defendant for attacking her and attempting to sexually assault another one of her children.