

State of South Carolina



Charleston County
101 Meeting Street, Suite 400
Charleston, SC 29401
Phone (843) 958-1900
Fax (843) 958-1905

Berkeley County
300-B California Avenue
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
Phone (843) 723-3800 ext. 4529
Fax (843) 719-4588

SCARLETT A. WILSON

Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit

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DNA Database Leads to Conviction of Serial Rapist

April 11, 2018- Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that a Charleston jury convicted Kraig J. Anderson of Criminal Sexual Conduct in the First Degree yesterday. Judge Thomas Hughston sentenced Anderson to 30 years, the maximum for the offense. Solicitor Wilson stated, "Once again, we see how extremely important science and databases are in the criminal justice system. CODIS definitely saved women from future trauma, and perhaps even from dying."

On June 18, 2014, Anderson went to a North Charleston bar (the now defunct Wild Buffalo Steakhouse), where over the course of the evening he struck up a conversation with the victim. She did not know Anderson, but thought he seemed harmless. Video from the bar depicted the Defendant lurking behind the victim as she conversed with others. The Defendant also could be seen waiting outside until the victim left the bar, and then following behind her. Anderson got into the victim's car begged her for a ride home. Because he indicated he lived nearby, the victim agreed.

As she drove him, he changed his story as to where he lived. He eventually lured her to a wooded area off Ashley Phosphate Road, where he strangled her and raped her. An expert for the State said it was one of the worst cases of strangulation she had ever seen in a survivor. At sentencing, after enduring claims of "consent," the victim addressed the court, stating, "I never doubted this day would come, that he would be found guilty."

Anderson had committed another sex-related assault that also began at the Wild Buffalo Steakhouse in 2012. On the very day he was released from prison for that conviction, he committed this offense. The Defendant has also been accused of several other sexual assaults in other jurisdictions dating back to 2006. He also was convicted of a rape in Germany. The 2012 incident led to the Defendant's DNA being collected and entered into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). That sample led to the Defendant's identification, arrest and conviction.

Assistant Solicitors Jessica Baldwin and Jennifer Kneece Shealy prosecuted the case. Assistant Public Defenders Lorri Proctor and Taylor Seman represented the Defendant. Baldwin stated,

"This woman has shown so much resolve and patience in the criminal justice system. She is strong and patient and we are grateful she stuck with us to get this conviction."

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