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PRESS RELEASE

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REDDING MAN FACING LIFE IN PRISON FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

A 49 year-old Redding man was convicted Friday by a Shasta County jury of three felony charges and now faces a possible life sentence under California's Three Strikes law. Leon Wilson Crockett was found guilty of causing corporal injury to a former co-habitant, false imprisonment, and assault by means of force likely to cause great bodily injury after a four day jury trial in Superior Court.

Crockett was convicted of battering his former live-in girlfriend at a home on Helen Street in Redding on July 30. Police were called to the home by a resident reporting Crockett was refusing to leave and then began forcibly dragging his girlfriend out the door against her will. Eyewitnesses told the jury Crockett was insisting the victim leave with him and go to his house. When she refused, he grabbed her by her hair and limbs and forcibly lifted her off a couch and began pulling her out the door and down the street.

When officers arrived, Crockett had dragged the 35 year-old woman approximately 100 yards down the road while she struggled to escape. Officers noted the woman's torn clothing, injuries to her leg, face, and arm. She reported that some of the injuries were from a prior incident of abuse at the hands of the defendant about two weeks before.

At a subsequent court trial today, Judge Stephen Baker found true the defendant's prior strike convictions and allegations of prior prison commitments.

Crockett has prior felony convictions for assault with a firearm, shooting at an inhabited dwelling, robbery, grand theft and conspiracy to commit burglary. He has served four prior prison sentences. Based on the new conviction and his prior record, he faces up to 29 years to life in prison at sentencing on December 8 before the Honorable Judge Stephen Baker.

The case is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Brian Popkes and was investigated by Redding Police Officers Samuel Llamas and Harry "Rusty"